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OUNCIL R R PAR

Report by David Cosgrove

plans **LONG-AWAITED** to build a multi-million pound car park in Dudley town centre have been revived.

A council chiefs has confirmed the authority is looking to knock down a derelict banqueting suite to make way for the new car park.

Bosses have earmarked the Mahoe

building in Tower Street for demolition with a car park to be built in its place.

The announcement comes six months after

The announcement comes six months after previous plans for the scheme were shelved.

A lack of parking spaces within easy walking distance of the town centre has been an issue causing concern for shoppers and traders in Dudley for years.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet mem-

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "We are always looking for ways to improve the parking for businesses and visitors in the town centre. Tower Street is an excellent opportunity to provide parking spaces in a central location to continue to develop the vitality of the town centre."

He said it was hoped demolition work would begin in the summer.

begin in the summer.

If planning permission is granted, work will start with the removal of the derelict former banqueting suite and continue with feasibility and design works towards a package to fund the building of the car park.

Investment

He said the plan would build on the continuing programme of investment and regeneration in Dudley, which has included the revamp of the market area.

the market area.

However, Conservative group leader Councillor Patrick Harley has said he was not sure the scheme was necessary.

He urged the council to carry out a viability study before pressing ahead.

Councillor Harley said: "One question that has never been answered is where the money is coming from for this new car park.

"I would also suggest that the cabinet member has a walk around Dudley and sees all the empty parking spaces. Without a big new super-

ber has a walk around Dudley and sees all the empty parking spaces. Without a big new supermarket in the centre who is going to park in that car park?

"Until a strategy attracting quality shops to the town and making it more compact is created, then I don't see the point in building a multi-storey car park which could be a white elephant."

The council announced in September it had decided not to progress with a previous scheme for a site in Tower Street, as it did not represent value for money. The authority had originally believed the car park could be built for around £2.5 million but, because it is in a conservation area, costs soared to between £3m and £4m.

PLACE MOSAIC RECREATES ANCIENT



Artist Steve Field with his eye-catching mural in Dudley market place which depicts the archaeological dig that took place in 2014

A NEW piece of eye-catching public artwork peers into the past of Dudley town centre. The mosaic is a reminder of the archaeo-logical dig that took place before the market

logical dig that took place before the market revamp, which uncovered the foundations of one of the town's medieval shopping streets – Middle Row – which once occupied part of the town's market place.

Using more than 6,000 hand-cut tiles, the design draws viewers into the foundations of the dig. Dsigned by borough artist Steve Field, it is located in the central route between the market stalls under a faxed greater. market stalls, under a glazed arcade.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet mem Councilior Anursina Animea, caoinet mem-ber for planning and regeneration, said: "It's fitting that the mosaic remembers the busy and vibrant Middle Row, just as the ongoing regeneration of the market place brings more business to the town centre today

ousness to the town centre today.

"The bright and engaging design of this artwork draws people into the image and the mosaic will no doubt become a favourite piece of public art for local people."

The mosaic depicts a view into the excavations that took place in 2014 when the foundations for the Market Mall were to be built.

It features not only the street foundations but also the archaeologist, Kate Griffiths, with her trowel and distinctive jewellery seated inside an old well that was discovered

seated inside an old well that was discovered during the dig.

Alongside the Middle Row buildings are depicted some of the Victorian finds, including clay pipes and the oyster shells, a plentiful and cheap fast food of the time.

Mr Field drew the perspective illusion in his Himley Hall studio, then worked with two other artists, Helen Sweeting and Richard Ellis, to create the mosaic.

COURT

Husband admits murder of his wife

A HUSBAND has admitted murdering his wife, in an altercation over tickets for an Elvis Presley tribute act. Paul Abbott appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Monday and pleaded guilty to the murder of Jacqueline Abbott. She died after being found with serious head injuries at the couple's home in Lodge Crescent Netherton on December.

Lodge Crescent, Netherton, on December

11. The fatal injuries were sustained during

an altercation over a planned night out.
Abbott, 57, was remanded in custody for a hearing in April. Judge John Wait warned Abbott that he faced a life sentence.

DEVELOPMENT

New lease of life for town's old cinema

A FORMER cinema in Stourbridge town centre is to be redeveloped after being snapped up by a property investor.

A care home or retirement complex are among the options being considered for its future use.

The old Savoy Cinema in Lower High Street has sold for £350,000. The property contains a series of linked buildings which stretch onto Crown Lane.

The new owner is said to be in dis-

The new owner is said to be in discussions with several interested parties about the future of the site.

ATTACK

Teenager remanded in secure hospital

A TEENAGER has been cleared of the attempted murder of a 66-year-old man in a knife attack in Dudley but was convicted of

knife attack in Dudley but was convicted of causing grievous bodily harm.

Tommy Smith – a paranoid schizophrenic – launched the onslaught on Peter Churm with such force that the eight inch weapon broke in two.

On Monday at Wolverhampton Crown Court, 18-year-old Smith, of Grove Street, Dudley, was cleared of attempted murder. He was convicted of causing grievous bodily harm and burglary and remanded to a secure psychiatric hospital for reports until a date still to be fixed.

INSIDE

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<u>CHRONICLE</u>

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Focus on children at risk of exploitation

or high risk' of sexual exploitation in Dudley, a

or high risk of sexual exploitation in Dudley, a new report reveals.

The borough is building on police intelligence, training taxi drivers to spot signs of sexual ex-ploitation and forming education programmes for children as part of plans to tackled the dangers facing young people.

In total, 64 children are deemed at medium

In total, 64 children are deemed at medium or high risk of sexual exploitation in the report, which will be discussed at a meeting of Dudley Council's People Services committee tonight (Thursday).

Council officials say they have a 'long journey'

proving the outlook for vulnerable children

Schools are planning to use a website by the Dot Com Children's Foundation to educate children on keeping safe. Theatre groups will also tour schools with performances as part of the education programme tion programme.

Officials want to raise community awareness of Officials want to raise community awareness or the issue to help people spot the signs and report concerns. Mandatory training is under way for taxi drivers and officials want to monitor cab firms from outside Dudley operating in the borough. A child improvement board has been set up to equitivity progress on improvements.

A child improvement poard has been scrutinise progress on improvements.

Dudley UKIP group leader Councillor Paul Brothwood said: "Dudley is now heading in the right direction but it has a lot of work to do."

Dudley Safeguarding Children Board chairman, Roger Clayton, said: "Protecting vulnerable children and young people is of the utmost importance. "The board's partners, including the council, police and voluntary sector, are working extensively to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation."

Dudley Council strategic director, Tony Oak-man, wrote in a report: "It is recognised that as a council, we have a long journey ahead to eradicate child sexual exploitation from our streets."

Beggars will be removed from area, say police

POLICE have promised to remove beggars from a Black Country High Street after it was revealed they had been conning shoppers out of money

ning shoppers out of money.

A group of around half a dozen people, dubbed 'professional beggars' by police, have been posing as homeless and hanging around outside Tesco in Cradley Heath High Street, when they are actually in receipt of full benefits.

Police say dispersal orders have moved some of them on but there is a group who are refusing to budge and have remained on the High Street.

Traders have called for more action to remove the begrars, who have also been

remove the beggars, who have also been seen at the train station.

Sergeant Jason Phillips, of Cradley Heath Police, said many of the beggars were previously known to police and some had already been brought before the courts. the courts.

He said: "We first became aware of the He said: "We first became aware of the problem a month or so before Christmas. We identified a group of six or seven people who have been involved in low-level crime and have come across from the Dudley area. They appeared to be working as a team; two would come and get dispersed then another two would arrive.

"Through our investigations we dis-

rirough our investigations we dis-covered they weren't homeless and were in receipt of benefits and basically con-ning the public."

Sgt Phillips said the force would look at using criminal behaviour orders which could ban anyone who returns and continues to cause a nuisance.

Governors win national award

A SPECIAL school in the Black Country

A SPECIAL school in the Black Country has been awarded a national award. The board of governors at The Westminster School in Rowley Regis has been awarded the Governor Mark, which is a National Governors Association approved quality standard.

The award recognises the board's high quality of governance and highlighted a number of areas assessors were especially impressed with. Fewer than 50 secondary schools in the country have achieved the accolade.

Headteacher Christine Hill said: "We have an extremely supportive governing

Headteacher Christine Hill sand: We have an extremely supportive governing board which works exceptionally hard for all of our pupils. We are delighted that their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment to The Westminster School has been recognised nationally."

Faith learning in

Teenager grieving for father killed himself

self following the death of his father and after an argument with his girlfriend, an inquest heard.

Kieran Harper, of Peel Street shel-tered housing, Dudley, was found hanged in his flat after an argument with his girlfriend Tiffany Bateman.

Mr Harper, the inquest heard, had a history of self harm and had taken an overdose at 15, was grieving for his father, who died in 2013, when he killed himself.

Speaking at the inquest, Tracy Wood-land of Perry Close, Dudley, described how strong-willed her son was.

"Once he got an idea in his head it was very difficult to change his mind," she explained.

"He was Jack the Lad. If there was trouble Kieran was not far behind it.

"But he had a good heart and would do anything for anyone," she said. Miss Woodland had spoken to her son at

around 6am on the morning of his death to arrange a Christmas meal for the family.

Positive

She said: "He seemed positive when I spoke to him, upbeat."

However, there was an argument involved Mr Harper and Miss Bateman later that day after he saw a message from a friend on her phone saying her ex-boyfriend saying hello

"He was severely depressed," Miss Bateman said. "His moods were really up and down and he was really missing his dad over Christmas time."

After Miss Bateman left Mr Harper's flat at around 6.30pm that evening, the pair continued to argue by text until Mr Harp-

continued to argue by text until Mr Harper's final message was received at 9.14pm.
His message read: "I'm going. I've already lost my dad, I can't lose you as well."
A police report confirmed Mr Harper was found hanged at the property later that

Lead coroner for the Black Country Zafar

Siddique gave a verdict of suicide.

He said: "This is an absolute tragedy, especially for a young man with all his life ahead of him."

Chancellor backs health petition



Carly Jeavons presents the petition on treatment for cystic fibrosis to Chancellor Osborne in Whitehall

A WOMAN from Dudley has won the backing of Chancellor George Osborne in her bid to increase ac-cess to life-saving treatment for cystic fibrosis sufferers.

Carly Jeavons, aged 29, who has CF, says her life has drastically improved thanks to a treatment called Orkambi, which she started taking through a clinical trial. Now Ms Jeavons wants other people with CF to benefit.

She took a 15,000-signature petition to Downing Street last week

urging the Government to step up trials for the potentially life-saving drug treatment.

Her campaign received the backing of the Chancellor, who met the mother-of-one in Downing Street on his return from the House of Commons.

Ms Jeavons was chosen by the Cystic Fibrosis Trust to deliver the petition as part of the charity's Stop the Clock campaign.

She said: "I can't believe we've managed to take the campaign this far and to receive the backing of the Chancellor was an added bonus."

Three years ago Ms Jeavons had to take 90 tablets and two hours of physiotherapy every day. But thanks to Orkambi she says she has halved the number of hospital visits she makes, and has been able to go on holiday with her five-year-old son Corey for the first time.

Her cause has been championed by Dudley North MP Ian Austin, who secured a debate in the Commons on access to new treatments

borough praised PRIMARY school pupils in Dudley have

been praised for celebrating and learning about other faiths. The event, called Faith City, was hosted at Sledmere Pri-mary School and saw youngsters discov-er more about Christianity, Islam, Hin-duism, Sikhism and Judaism.

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Broken Dentures?

Councillor accused of online racist comments

A UKIP Councillor in Dudley has been reported to the council's stand-ards department for allegedly making racist comments.

Councillor Stuart Henley has been reported to standards by the Hale-sowen Yemeni Community Associa-tion.

This follows comments he made

This follows comments he made online about the council opting to use the Yemeni Association to provide services at Halesowen Youth Centre.

He wrote: "Dudley Council cannot get any worse. They are renting a youth centre to a Yemeni group.

"It was reported to myself by a group in Halesowen and a previous police sergeant that Yemeni teen males caused issues with females in Halesowen and now they wish these young females to use this centre."

Concern

Dudley Council's monitoring officer Philip Tart confirmed the council had received 'an expression of concern' about comments made.

about comments made.

In a statement Councillor Henley,
a Halesowen North ward representative, said his actions were fair and
necessary in his role as an elected

spokesman. He said: "I had the concern raised

He said: "I had the concern raised by both residents and a police officer. As an elected spokesman it is my duty to express such concerns."

Saiff Salih from the Yemeni Association, claimed the comments Councillor Henley originally made were 'nothing but scaremongering' with 'chvious racial views'. 'obvious racial views'

Motorcyclist is taken to hospital

A MOTORCYCLIST suffered leg injuries in a crash involving a car on a busy Dudley road.

The rider, aged is in his 20s, was taken to Russells Hall Hospital after the collision involving a Jeep on the Birmingham New Road shortly before 5.30am on Monday.

His injuries were described as not life threatening.

Debris was left scattered across the road, with the severely damaged bike resting on the grass verge surrounded by broken glass and smashed body-

The Birmingham New Road remained closed between Vicarage Road West and the A457 Sedgley Road for motorists travelling towards Dudley throughout the morning rush hour.

Roadworks due to be completed

ROADWORKS that have caused dis-ruption along a Sedgley road have ruption along a Sedgley road have been completed.

Temporary traffic lights at Gospel End were installed last week as a gas

pipe was laid.

MP hails U-turn over medals contract

hailed a Government climb down over plans to award a contract to manufacture British military

medals to a French firm as 'the right move'.

The announcement comes after West Midlands metal firms expressed their anger over Paris-based Arthus-Bertrand being lined up to become the first foreign company to get a Government contract for Queen's Honours awards.

Labour MP Mr Austin raised the issue in Parlia-ment last week after he was contacted by furious Midlands medal makers.

The move had also sparked concern among vet-erans from across the Black Country. But the Gov-ernment appears to have performed a U-turn after

Austin in Parliament

Austin in Parliament.

During Prime Minister's Questions last Wednesday, Mr Cameron admitted he had no knowledge of the contract. A day later a spokesman for No10 said no contract had been awarded to a French firm.

Mr Austin said: "It is extremely good news if the Government has indeed confirmed that none of the medals will be made in France. This is the right move and I know the craftsmen in Birmingham and people involved in charities and other volunteer organisations that get awarded these medals will be ganisations that get awarded these medals will be delighted "The id

"The idea of giving business to a foreign firm to make British medals is just ridiculous. Some of the

best medal manufacturers in the world are based in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter."

John Deane, aged 79, president and treasurer of the Dudley Royal Air Force Association, said: "If French medals were being made in the UK there would be uproar over there, so it is only right that

would be uproar over there, so it is only right that the Government has gone back on its decision."

Arthus-Bertrand was initially awarded the contract after a tendering process to become official suppliers of medals to Cabinet Office branch The Crown Commercial Service. The deal involved manufacturing 20 British medals, including the Distinguished Service Order which is awarded for outstanding leadership in military service and Commander of the Order of the British Empire (OBE).

Hospital recruits Filipino nurses

MORE than 130 nurses will be re-cruited from the Philippines to work at Russells Hall Hospital.

The move comes after figures re-cently revealed some shifts had been understaffed at the hospital over the past 12 months.

Speaking at a Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust board meeting last week, chief nurse Dawn Wardell said: "We will be going to the Philippines on April 9 and have more than 130 people

"We have also made contact with an agency in India."

Worst fly-tipping hotspots revealed

FLY-TIPPING hotspots in the Black Country have been revealed, with sev-eral areas in Dudley and Halesower

Devon Crescent in Dudley is one spot being targeted by fly-tippers, according to the police.

Other hotspot include are Lapa Lane South in Halesowen and Crock-etts Lane in Smethwick.

Dudley councillor Hilary Bills said fly-tipping caused a blight on the land-scape and left council taxpayers out of pocket.

Threat is hanging over npower jobs

HUNDREDS of npower staff in the Midlands face an uncertain future as the shadow of redundancy hangs over 2,500 of the firm's jobs in the UK.

The German-owned energy giant is still refusing to comment over reports that it is set to announce plans to axe up to a quarter of its workforce.

The npower workers at the company's Birch House offices in Oldbury

have already survived one major jobs cull when two years ago 250 of their colleagues lost their jobs.

Murder is topic for historian's library talk

AN historian and author will be giving a talk on Black Country murders.

Don Cochrane is giving the talk in the Amblecote Room at Stourbridge Library on Friday, March 18 at 2.30pm. Admission is £3 and places can be booked on (01384) 812945.

Mr Cochrane from Stourbridge has researched some of the most notorious offences carried out in the Black Country. His books include Crimes of Worcestershire and Black Country

of Worcestershire and Black Country

Calendar helps wildlife

SALES of Dudley Zoo's 2016 calendar have raised £520.73 for endangered African hunting dogs.

They had to print extra calendars after initially selling out the first print run for the £4.99 calendar. Last year's calendar sales raised £700 towards wild tiger conservation projects.

Prison for speeding motorist who hit girl

twice the speed limit moments before he slammed into a 15-year-old girl, leaving her with a brain injury,

has been put behind bars.
Christopher Wiseman's sports car struck Savannah Turner as she crossed the Black Country Route near the Morri-

sons superstore at Bilston.
Benjamin Hargreaves, defending, told Wolverhampton Crown Court that Miss Turner was thrown high into the air with her head

was thrown ling! into the air with her head landing on a kerb.

Analysis of CCTV footage revealed Wiseman was travelling at around 74mph just 30 metres before hitting Miss Turner in the 40mph zone.

Nearly two years following the incident the teenager still suffers from losses of short-term memorated at the case of the state of

memory and struggles to concentrate. It is not

known if she will ever fully recover. Wiseman, of Turls Hill Road, Coseley, admitted causing serious injury by dangerous driving and was handed an eight-month jail term last week.

Accelerated

The court heard the incident took place at around 6pm on March 29, 2014. Wiseman, aged 48, accelerated sharply as he came off the roundabout by Bilston Fire Station, heading towards Walsall.

towards Walsall.

Prosecuting, Gerald Bermingham, said Miss Turner was crossing the road at the pedestrian crossing near Bert Williams Leisure Centre and may have tried to turn back when she saw Wiseman's Nissan 370Z speeding towards her. Wiseman, a self-employed civil engineer who worked as a project manager on large railway projects in the UK, attempted to slow down and swerve out the way but struck the teenager. She subsequently spent nearly a month in hospital. in hospital.

Miss Turner suffered bleeding within her

Miss Turner suffered bleeding within her brain, a broken hip and injuries to her back and face which have left scarring In mitigation, Mr Hargreaves explained his client was 'cut up' by an Audi as he left the roundabout and felt he had to speed up to un-dertake. He added: 'He had had the car for six months. He had never put his foot down in it, but he did that evening. He was surprised by the power of the car and the enormous acceleration."

Judge Peter Barrie disqualified Wiseman from driving for three years.

Football club snaps up TV cafe



Outside the blue cafe are club shop manager Emma Broughton and bar manager Louisa Anderson

THE title star of a TV show has been snapped up by Halesowen also featured in The Royal Family, expected to be open permanently next season for hot refreshments. been snapped up by Halesowen Town Football Club – it's the new cafe for supporters on match days. The building has arrived at The

The building has arrived at line Grove stadium after the club's owner Steve Lynch spotted it for sale on online auction site eBay. The blue wooden structure had appeared in the 13-episode Sky One sitcom The Cafe, when it was criticated in Weston-Super-Mare. situated in Weston-Super-Mare, and starred Ralf Little. Now here

anso reatured in The Royal Family, to officially unveil the new building at The Grove.

Mr Lynch thought the building

would be a perfect addition to the home of the Yeltz when he spotted

nome of the Yeltz when he spotted it advertised for £5,000.

As it was used as a TV set, it was only partially built and has needed to undergo work to make it complete. It has already been used by fans on a trial basis but is

before matches, as well as at half time and afterwards.

Mr Lynch said: "It is something

Mr Lynch sau: It is sometimes unique and unusual, I thought it would be great for the fans. It will be an indoor cafe when at the moment we have cabins but people have to stand outside.

"It will improve the facilities.
These will be a divabled toilet in

There will be a disabled toilet in there too."







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THE BEST OF RHODES



YEAH, we gotta stop polluting the air and we gotta take the planet seriously. Bite-sized gobbets of eco-wisdom dropped from the lips of the great and good at the Oscars. Here's a good question for them. How many times did

THANKS for all your emails on whatever happened to big ends, those bits deep within car engines that so often gave up the ghost in days of yor. If I cut and pasted all your learned contributions I would have a 2.500-word dissertation and possibly qualify for some sort of degree. I gather that's how academia works these days.

A READER says it's time to name and shame those who wrongly use words that sound the same. The classic example, he says, is the graffiti on a railway bridge near Oswestry proclaiming: "Gorilla War Fair."

TIME required to fight and win the first World War: four years. Time required to fight and win the Second World War: six years. Time required to draw up new trade agreements in the event of the UK leaving the EU (according to Whitehall): 10 years. In this war of words, as with any war, the first casualty is truth.

THIS was the week, as you have probably noticed, when Donald Trump stopped being mad. After his Super Tuesday success, there were no wild-eyed demands to exclude Muslims or keep Mexicans out behind a massive wall. Instead, he spoke of unity and co-operation. What's going on? There are two explanations. The first, from Piers Morgan, is that Trump has behaved



dominate media and now, having virtually won the Republican nomina-tion, can return being the per, reason-

outrageously to

is that Trump merely wanted to shake up US politics and never in his wildest dreams expected to get this far. With the White House on his horizon and not an iota of experience in politics, he is frightened to death of becoming president and needs all the friends he can find.

THE Alliance of British Drivers claims speed cameras have failed to deliver "gen-uine reductions in road-accident rates" and are "a monumental waste of a very great deal of money." Meanwhile, the Pope is still a Catholic and bears are to be found crouching in forests. The case for speed traps is made mainly by the so-called "safety partnerships," who have a vested tracest in speed traps is made to the control of the "sarety partnersnips," who have a vested interest in providing a steady stream of erring motorists to attend driver-awareness courses at £100 a time. This is a £200m-a-year industry which provides part-time employment for ex-cops. The system sets to will himst, provides its own customers and imposes its own charges.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday'in your Express & Star

Charity appeal for volunteer drivers Poundland

A CANCER charity is appealing for volunteer drivers to transport patients to appointments across the Black Country.

Black Country.
White House Cancer Support, in
Dudley, is on the lookout for drivers
to spare a few hours each week.
The organisation, based in Ednam
Road, has more than 20 drivers al-

White House manager Caroline Webb said: "Our volunteer drivers not only help people with cancer but take a great deal of pressure off their carers, families and friends too, by giving a helping hand at what can be a very difficult time.

"We want people with a clean driving licence, a reliable vehicle and the commitment to give a few hours each week to join our current team.

"They will be providing transport to local hospitals across the Black Country for medical treatments and

She added: "Our drivers are all ages and from very different back-grounds – some are retired, others fit in volunteering around busy work-loads, and others do it because their own families have been touched by

"It's a much-valued service and is very rewarding for the drivers as they really do make a difference to

people's lives."

Call White House Cancer Support transport co-ordinator Jon Rebello for details call (01384) 231232.

Secular campaigners join EU prayer wrangle

SECULAR group has called for an end to prayers at council meetings, after a clergyman sparked controversy by raising the European Union referendum at

a Dudley Council meeting.
Mayor's chaplain Reverend
Andrew Wickens was accused
of bringing politics into prayer,

of bringing politics into prayer, leading to concerns being voiced by some councillors.

He told councillors at the full council meeting on February 22 that those arguing for an exit from the EU 'need to be aware of the risks of stoking anti-European sentiment'.

He added that migrants trying to enter Britain and the EU should not be 'further stigmatised'

be 'further stigmatised'.

be 'further stigmatised'.
But his opening prayers were interrupted after his comments. Conservative councillor Chris Elcock called out: 'What has this got to do with prayer. Can we just have the Lord's Prayer.'

Councillors, including Dudley UKIP group members, hit out at the speech but council leader Councillor Pete Lowe and Dudley North MP Ian Austin have supported Rev

MP Ian Austin have supported Rev

Wickens.

The National Secular Society has urged council officials to rethink prayers in light of the issue. Campaigns manager, Stephen Evans, in a letter to the Mayor of Dudye Councillor Steve Waltho, said: "With the merits of prayers during official council business under scrutiny, I would urge you to take this opportunity to rethink the practice of including prayer in council meeting the process of the process of the council meeting the process of the practice of including prayer in council meeting the process of the process of the practice of the p of including prayer in council meet-

ings.
"I would hope that all serving councillors are keen to ensure that the meetings of Dudley MBC are conducted in a manner equally wel-coming to all attendees, regardless of individual religious beliefs or lack

of belief."

Mr Wickens is the vicar at St
Thomas and St Luke's Church – Top Church - in Dudley, He again led prayers at a council meeting on February 29.

Pupils inspired by Sharpe example



Football hero Lee Sharpe opens the new library at Huntingtree Primary School with pupils and staff

FORMER Premier League footballer Lee Sharpe returned to his home town to cut the ribbon on a new school library.

The ex-Manchester United midfielder gave an inspiring speech to pupils at Huntingtree Primary School in Halesowen and said he was delighted to be back home.

Lee marked the opening by cutting the ribbon before speaking to pupils at an assembly.

The 44-year-old said: "It is nice to back in the Mid-

lands. My sister, who works at the school, said the students had done a lesson where they discussed ideas of what they want to be when they grow up and how they would get there.

"I spoke to the kids about perseverance and my expe

rience of getting let go by clubs and practising football by myself in my garden.

"After that all the kids went in and had plenty to write about with a lot of of ideas - they were pretty inspired which is nice to know."

Lee, who also played for England eight times, grew up in Halesowen and enjoyed a successful career with the Red Devils under Sir Alex Ferguson, winning nine medals in total including the Premier League title three times and the FA Cup twice.

Deputy headteacher Emma Grice said: "He is a great local role model. The message was if you work hard enough, you can get somewhere, and being local as well, it makes the message seem real for the children."

boss tells of pride and retirement

THE retiring boss of Poundland has spoken of his pride at the success of the Black Country-based company. Jim McCarthy is to leave the business this summer after a decade in charge, turning Poundland into a £1 billion-a-year international concern.

The firm, with its headquarters beside the Black Country Route at Willenhall and a major distribution depot in Bilston, was founded in 1990 by Steve Smith and his father Keith. They sold up for £50m in 2000 and the new owners hired Jim McCarthy, the former head of Sainsbury's conveni-

former nead of samsbury's convenience stores, in 2006.

He already had a strong track record in retail, starting out as a paperboy with Dillons newsagents and later running Black Country-based T&S Stores with Wolverhampton businessman Kevin Threlfall – a man M.M.Catharkas and the second of the starting of the starting of the second of the starting of the second of the second of the starting of the second Mr McCarthy has often referred to as

Mr McCarthy has often referred to as his mentor. Under Mr McCarthy's leadership, Poundland has grown from 146 stores with sales of \$310m to a business with over 900 stores in the UK, Ireland and

over 900 stores in the UK, Ireland and Spain, adding an additional £1bn of sales in the process. He has also overseen the £55m takeover of 99p Stores last year and took the company public on the London Stock Exchange.

Mr McCarthy said: "There's a time when the cardigan and slippers have some more appeal. I said that I would go at 60, and I reached that age in January. There is a feeling of a job well done. It's a brilliant business and they are a marvellous team – they are the best in retail."

Station car park in bid to double size

TIPTON train station's car park is to more than double in size under new plans to solve commuter parking problems.

problems.

An extra 107 parking spaces would be created as part of the major extension designed to ease congestion on nearby roads.

Improvements to the park-andride bus terminal also form part of the ambitious proposals, which are to be lodged with Sandwell Council by transport giant Centro.

People living near the train station have complained about commuters leaving their cars across driveways

leaving their cars across driveways in side streets and it is hoped the ex-tension to the car park could end that

The current car park currently only

M5 slip roads in night closures at 5 and 6

THE southbound carriageway and entry slip roads at junction 5 and 6 of the M5 will be closed overnight from 8pm until 6am from tonight (Thursday) until Sunday.

A diversion route for motorists will be signposted.

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we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated

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Many more homes are needed to solve crisis

they are doing all they can to build more affordable homes across the borough but have admitted that there are not enough in the pipeline.

A council report has revealed almost 10,000 new affordable homes would need to be built in the borough to meet the level of demand.

Experts from the authority say the number of people struggling to buy or rent their own homes is forcing them to seek council housing instead.

Housing boss Councillor Gaye Par-tridge said she was hopeful the new West Midlands combined authority, being formed by the Black Country and Birmingham authorities, can help ease the pressure for more homes.

Shortage

She said: "There is a shortage of new and affordable housing in Dud-ley and, while we are doing all we can to address this, we are currently only able to provide 150 homes a year.

"We consistently look at ways providing more housing, this includes working with housing associations, private house builders and funding our new-build council house pro-gramme."

She added: "While we are hopeful that the new combined authority will enable us to identify more opportuni-ties across all tenures it is clear that under the current circumstances the homes that are so badly needed are not being built."

Speedway rivals unite for charity

CRADLEY Heathens and Wolves peadway riders will put their best feet forward with fans of both clubs at an event to raise funds for Sport Relief.

The rivals, who will share Monmore Green this year, are inviting supporters to the Wolverhampton Sport Relief Mile on March 20 from 11am.

Two riders will lead the walk – Max Clegg, from Wolves, and Ashley Morris, who is set to return to the Heathens. It's an opportunity for fans to walk – or jog – the six laps of the Monmore Green circuit.

Wolverhampton promoter Chris Van Straaten said: "There will be live music on the terraces and it should be a very enjoyable day out for a great

Delay removing

A clean-up of a huge rubbish mound near homes in Brierley Hill has hit delays after a change of contractors. The Environment Agency said work had been delayed at Refuse Derived Fuel Ltd but should restart soon.

Injured taxi driver thanks well-wishers

Health and voluntary



Mohammed Ahmed with Shaz Saleem

try borough, it has been revealed.

as massive council cuts continue to

bite.

Jobs could be lost as part of a restructure of cash-strapped Dudley Council's public health department while plans to

slash £3 million in funding of voluntary groups could have a major impact on ser-

The authority's health boss Rachel Harris said she could not rule out redundancies as part of the restructure. The public health department has been identified as one of the key

areas where cash can be saved as the authority

aims to cut spending by £20m over the next

Councillor Harris warned some health services provided by the council, such has weight loss and sexual health groups, could also be

Reduction

Reduction

She said: "We are still trying to work it out. I suspect we will have a very different skill mix which may inevitably mean some people we won't be able to employ."

Councillor Harris said public health would be hit by a £1m reduction in funding from the Government over the next two years on top of £1.3m that has already been cut.

Voluntary groups fear they could be left in ruins due to huge funding cuts. Groups which serve 45,000 people could be affected over the next three years with almost a third warning they will have to cut services as a result.

Job losses are also predicted – with more than a quarter of groups fearing they will be forced to make redundancies across the 1,000 people employed within the sector by 2019.

Andy Gray, spokesman for the Dudley Vol-

people employed within the sector by 2019. Andy Gray, spokesman for the Dudley Voluntary Sector Network, said: "We understand the very difficult financial issues the council is facing. But we do want to send a clear and constructive message to Dudley Council that general cuts, without thought to the voluntary and community sector, will have a potentially devastating impact on many people's lives." Dudley Council's finance chief David Sparks said the authority had been forced to make cuts. He said: "We are now having to cut where we do not want to cut, where we would not

we do not want to cut, where we would not choose to cut and where it is not sensible to

Doors

cut - because we have no alternative.

fractured skull after a vicious attack is recovering in hospital and has thanked well-wishers for their sup-

Mohammed Ahmed was taken to Mohammed Anmed was taken to Russells Hall Hospital after the brutal attack in Brierley Hill. Mr Ahmed, aged 60, was found col-lapsed with serious head injuries after the assault in Bell Street South. He

was taken to hospital in a critical con-dition after being treated at the scene. Dudley Private Hire and Taxi As-sociation chairman Shaz Saleem said

Mr Ahmed, who works for Brierley Hill-based Newline Taxis, has been

overwhelmed by the support.

He said: "He is understandably shaken up and cannot remember the attack whatsoever. But he said he feels overwhelmed by the messages of support that he has received since the attack.

Memory

"At this stage he is suffering from memory loss and cannot remem-ber certain parts of his life. But he wanted everyone to know he has been

numbled by the community spirit and would like to express his thanks." Mr Saleem was joined by other taxi drivers from across the Black Country when they visited Mr Ahmed, from Old Hill, in hospital. Mr Saleem added: "Our taxi driv-

ers cover a relatively small area but we are close and work together. He is one of us."

Investigations are continuing into the attack and anyone with informa-tion should call West Midlands Police force CID on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Profits heading up at The Tipton

THE Tipton and Coseley Building So-ciety has enjoyed a rise in profits as its mortgage lending also increased.

The society saw its net profit rise by more than four per cent in 2015 to £2.31 million from £2.14m a year before and mortgage lending also rose by three per cent on 2014 to £52.08m.

The 115-year-old society's gross capital increased to £35.31m, up more than nine per cent on the previous year. Chief executive Richard Newton said: "To report such upbeat figures during a time of continued economic

Trees to get chop despite campaign

TWO beech trees near a church in Lye will be chopped down after council-lors gave the go-ahead – despite pub-lic concerns. People wanted to save the trees in the churchyard at Christ Church.

Archdeacon of Dudley the Venera-ble Nikki Groarke described the trees as being 'greatly valued by the local community'.

The trees caused significant struc tural damage to properties nearby, the council said, and gave permission for them to be felled. Two replacement trees will be planted.

Choir and folk group join forces

THE Sound Company community choir will be joined by the Old Grey Cat folk band for a cabaret-style concret at St John's Church, Stourbridge on Saturday, March 19, at 7.30pm.

The musical programme will range from Frankie Valli and The Four Sea sons to folk favourites with a finale of Irish Blessing by Cob Chilcott.

Tickets cost £6 and will be available on the door or email insoundcom with a finale of

pany@gmail.com in advance.

Heads up for gig by former Argent singer

MUSICIAN, songwriter and singer Russ Ballard will be appearing at Bil-ston's Robin 2 on Sunday. Russ Ballard is the former lead vo-

Calist and guitarist of rock band Argent, who had a massive hit with Hold You Head Up. Tickets are priced at £17.50 in advance and £18.50 on the door at the Mount Pleasant venue.

To book tickets, contact the box office on 01902 401211, or visit the

website at www.therobin.co.uk to buy online or to see the venue's gig guide

Ouad bike is stolen

A QUAD bike was stolen after thieve A QUAD bike was stolen after thieves raided outbuildings in Kinver. The buildings were broken into in the early hours of Thursday morning in Greensforge Lane. Chainsaws and leaf blowers were also stolen. Anyone with information should call police on 101 or anonymously on 0800 555 111.

services under th College builds on its reputation under threat across a Black Coun-



Skills Minister Nick Boles meets students at Dudley College to hear about the college's plans for Advance II

DUDLEY College students were able to show their construction knowledge to Minister of State for Skills Nick Boles MP, when he visited Dudley to hear about plans for the £12 million Advance II centre.

The state-of-the-art building is due to open fully in spring 2017 and will be the first college of its kind specialising in the latest content to the state of th struction techniques, technology and off-site fabrication.

Mr Boles, Minister of State jointly for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Education, spoke to engineering apprentices while on a tour of the existing Priory Road sites.

The Grantham and Stamford Conservative MP donned protective glasses and overalls to take part in practical tasks alongside the students.

The Advance II will be built met to the FMD Dudiey And was opened last will include workshops, classioms, project spaces, resource areas and welfare and support facilities around a four-storey building called The Hanger.

Dudley North Labour MP Ian Dudiey North Labour MP Ian Dudley College Principal Lowell Williams at the launch event last week. Mr Boles, Minister of State next to the £9m Dudley Advance

rubbish mountain

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Dudley Chronicle

Pardon but it explains lot about X Factor

LOUIS Walsh, the man who brought us Westlife, Boyzone and Shayne Ward, says he is going deaf. Which explains how a lot of the acts on X Factor have somehow managed to get so far.

Still could be worse. Spare a thought for the rest of us. Some of us can actually

YOU know, there are those odd occasions when I think our politicians could learn from their counterparts in other countries when it comes to making their

work more interesting.

Take for example the deputy leader of Portugal's Labour Party, Jose Manuel Coelho. Last week he was feeling a little miffed about plans to cut his salary, and to reinforce his point in a parliamentary debate, he took off his shirt and trousers debate, he took of his similar and trousers while shouting something about "rotten justice". To complete the performance, he was then seen walking out of the parliament wearing just his socks, and boxer shorts, clutching a briefcase and what appeared to be a photograph of The Weakest Link.

veakest LIRK.

Now, I can see there might be a downside if Jeremy Corbyn tried to replicate that look, but hey, I'm sure nobody would object if he kept his vest on.

Magnified over in the Literaine land.

object if he kept his vest on.
Meanwhile, over in the Ukraine last year, MP Oleh Barna took exception to something prime minister Arseny Yatseniuk said. And despite actually being in coalition with Arseny, old Oleh decided the appropriate response would be to lift his from the pooling and corre his new or the property of the propert him from the podium and carry him away And while this was going on, for some unexplained reason, the prime minister started frantically waving a bunch of recoses as Oleh lifted him over his shoulder. And then we come to our old friend Debat Musches who belied his cutthful.

And then we come to our old friend Robert Mugabe, who belied his youthful good looks with a party to mark his 92nd birthday last week. When a journalist asked him if he had given any thought to who might replace him when he retired, he replied: "Do you want me to punch you to the floor?"

One suspects getting beaten up by a

One suspects getting beaten up by a 92-year-old would probably have dented the newsman's pride rather more than his face.

And Poland is now governed by the Prawo i Sprawiedliwo party. Or the the PiS Party as it is more commonly abbre-

Viated. Is it me, or do you think we are possibly being cheated in this country?

AND congratulations to Rupert Murdoch and Jerry Hall on their wedding. According to reports, the media mogulaye Mick Jagger's ex a £2.8 million marquise-cut diamond engagement ring. I'm not normally one to give advice to newly weds, but on this occasion, I'm going to make an expecting

ing to make an exception.

Jerry, keep your hands in your pockets when you visit Liverpool.







Corbyn: My love for the Black Country

Labour's Jeremy Corbyn reveals his West Midland roots an area he fondly remembers. **ROB GOLLEDGE** reports

HE is the firebrand veteran Labour backbencher who became the surprise Leader of the Opposition after sweeping the party's leadership contest by a landslide.

contest by a landslide.

But, surprisingly, the radical left winger's roots can be traced back to a leafy fringe of the Black Country.

The Labour leader's parents worked in Stafford and he grew up in nearby Newport over the Shropshire border.

It was here that he also developed a 'great affection' for the Black Country and its industries.

tries.

He has told how growing up in the region shaped him but how even at an early age his views found him at odds with his peers.

In a candid interview with over a cup of tea

in Willenhall, during a recent visit to the area, Mr Corbyn said: "Whilst I probably had political differences with just about everybody at various times I remember it all extremely well and enjoyably.

Diversity

"I absolutely do have an affection for the Black Country because the amazing history and diversity of it.

"Different industries took place in different

places.
"The nail-makers, the lock-makers, the blast furnaces, and later the car industry, the aircraft industry and all that."
And he sees a bright future for the region.
"I think the renaissance of the Black Country in the sense of culture and art that has



Jeremy Corbyn who visited Willenhall with Andy Burnham recently to launch Labour's

gone on has been incredible," he said.

"Also the way in which the centre of Birmingham has been transformed is fantastic."

Mr Corbyn also recalled that he was once in journalism himself, and at one time was a reporter on the Newport and Market Dray-ton Advertiser, part of the Chronicle's parent group the Midland News Association.

"I was briefly its chief reporter covering everything from crime, education to religious

affairs," he said with a smile. Although born in Wiltshire, Mr Corbyn moved with his family to Shropshire when he was seven years old.
They lived in the seven-bedroom Yew Tree Manor in Pave Lane and Mr Corbyn attended

the fee-paying Castle House School in Newport before attending Adams Grammar School.

He fondly told of his father, David – who was an engineer for GEC, General Electric Company, the engineering firm specialising in

FULLY FITTED

heavy electrical equipment, based in Stafford – and his mother, Naomi, who taught in both Stafford and Wellington.

He also revealed how his father was part of the founding group that set up the Blists Hill Museum at Madeley.

"I grew up in Shropshire and then in life had the amazing experience of leaving Newport at the end of school and was a volunteer in Jamaica and went there for two years and went around Latin America and so on," he said.

"I then came back and my first job was on a farm.

"I then came seem..."

"I have always been formed by this small town which was my entire world until I left it then went all around the world and end up with the job I am doing now.

"What I liked about it was the sense of committed that there was there.

munity that there was there.
"In a sense everyone is looking for a feeling of community and even in densely-populated urban areas there is still the search for a village belonging.

Landscape

"Village belonging can be a physical one, can be community one in terms of linguistic of ethnic community it can be lots of things. Shropshire is a wonderful county.

"It's the largest inland county and has that amazing diversity of landscape from the relative flat part in North Shropshire and then Church Stretton and Ironbridge, the cradle of the Industrial Revolution.

the industrial Revolution.

"Indeed my dad was one of the people who founded the Blists Hill Museum because he was very keen on industrial history and he worked at GEC in Stafford.
"And my mum was a teacher for the in W.

"And my mum was a teacher firstly in Wellington and then in Stafford so I remember

lington and then in Stafford so I remember their anger when the Shrewsbury to Stafford railway line closed. "I have a real love of Shropshire and the Black Country and have many happy memo-ries from growing up here."



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Christian view should not come as shock Museum is

UKIP'S demand to gag Dudley's Reverend lors that not everyone agrees with their cyn-Andrew Wickens and ban him from future ical attack on refugees and migrants. UKIP Dudley Council meetings just shows how in Dudley have now attacked Muslims for intolerant they are.

Reverend Wickens should be commended for expressing concern on the possible adverse impact of the EU debate upon refugees and migrants. After all, as a representative of the Christian faith it should not come as a shock to anyone that the reverend stands up for the most vulnerable in society. Isn't that the Christian thing to do?

It may come as a shock to UKIP council-

wanting a place of worship, Christians, who

There are those of us that share the reverend's concerns a and that is why we are going to support the Europe-wide demonstrates. stration 'Refugees Welcome Here' in Lon-don on March 19 as part of the United Nations Anti-Racism day. TONY BARNSLEY & JERRY LANGFORD

EU needs us as trade partners

PRESIDENT Hollande of France warns that there could be 'consequences' if Britain votes to leave the European Union in June.

warns that migrants could be on our shores and

could be on our snores and not forming a rather disor-derly 'queue' at Calais. This comes the day after BMW wrote to its UK em-ployees warning of 'conse-quences' if we leave.

quences' if we leave.

All this goes to show is how worried they are at losing the £50bn annual membership subscription we pay into this 'club'.

The rest of the EU cannot afford to thus trade how:

afford to thrust trade barriafford to thrust trade barri-ers up against British goods. They would harm their own economy just as much, if not more, than ours. We import more goods from the rest of the EU than they do from us They need us

us. They need us.
We are a free state but if
the faceless ones in the EU
get their way we will become a mere province of the
Greater European Superstate. No thanks. We like to decide our own laws. To suit

our people.

M GOUGH

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Inspiring talks on fighting injustice

at Dudley Trades Union Congress were privileged to hear three excellent speak-ers, all opposing injustices.

We had a junior doctor speaking about their oppo-sition to having a contract imposed upon them by the dreadful, arrogant Jeremy Hunt. She outlined the jun-ior doctors' case most elo-

quently.

We had a representative of Small Heath School in Birmingham who reported on the staff's unity in opposing the privatisation or academisation of the school. They, like the junior doctors, have had to resort to strike action.

Finally, Dave Smith spoke about blacklisting and how Health and Safety repre-

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been unable to get work be-cause they were on an em-ployers' blacklist. The case has been to the High Court and will, I understand, go the European Court of Human Rights.

Human Rights.

Three different trades unionists. Three different cases. All united by a common thread of injustice.

Dave Smith was an inspirational speaker and has truly stood up against the big companies.

It was a privilege to hear these people speaking out

It was a privilege to hear these people speaking out and opposing bullying. A very inspirational night and Dudley TUC would like to thank the speakers and those who attended.

C STOLL

our heritage

I'M dismayed at the decision to close the museum and art gallery in Dudley.

It's an excellent building

in the heritage part of town, and does have disabled access, contrary to a council statement.

Who are these councillors

kidding?
Cutbacks should start at

the top – that would keep the museum open. Regarding the council de-cision to reduce litter picks and get people to clean their own streets is perhaps a decent suggestion, but I think community payback offenders could get involved, as they do a great job on parks

in my area.
At least the streets would look better.
P WINCHURCH

Overspending has caused these cuts

I REALLY cannot believe

the news I am hearing.
Dudley Council has decided to close the Museum
and Art Gallery, supposedly
saving thousands of pounds, whilst at the same time they are spending a large sum erecting a giant ferris wheel on the useless Stone Street

Square. Stone Street will be out

Stone Street will be out of bounds for weeks we are told, doing untold damage to the trading potential of some of the shops.

It's about time someone questioned all the overspending they have been guilty of in the past, resulting in all the forceins cuts. ing in all the ferocious cuts being implemented now in 2016.

L SHELDON

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Museum axed but council tax still rises



Dudley Museum is to close as part of the unprecedented cuts despite a petition signed by 4,000 people wanting to save it

DUDLEY Museum will close, council

DUDLEY Museum will close, council tax bills will rise and people will have to ring up to get their streets cleaned under budget cuts aimed to save the borough £20 million.

Cash-strapped Dudley Council will increase its share of council tax by 1.99 per cent and take up a Government offer to increase it by a further two per cent for adult social care. This works out to be an extra 77p per week or £40.04p per year for people living in Band C properties.

Reduced litter collection is forecast to save £55,000, with cabinet member for environmental services, Hilary Bills, saying there is 'not enough money' to carry out the collections anymore.

anymore. She said: "More and more people are

looking after their own street and do looking after their own street and do their own litter picks, including my-self. We will still continue to work in the hotspot areas with fly-tipping and assess where we need to go. But it will be an on demand service because we do not have the money to collect the litter anymore."

Problems

Campaigner Abdul Qadus, of Stourbridge, said that would 'cause a lot of problems environmentally'.

The full council has now made the final decision to go ahead with the cuts. Finance boss Councillor David Sparks said: "To the people in this borough it will mean budgets that will carry cuts to escential services for will carry cuts to essential services for years to come We have never been in

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Saturday: 9am to 4pm Sunday Closed

this position before. In the past there

this position before. In the past there have been bad years but we have always lived in hope.

"In this unprecedented situation we need to be honest and admit in this council that central government of all persuasions have failed to fully address the need in this borough. None of us got into this position to be making these cuts but we must expect to continue to prepare for them in the borough of Dudley.

One of the toughest decisions was closing Dudley Museum, after 4,000 signed a petition to save the heritage attraction in St James Road.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed promised that the collection would be safeguarded and needed to be in a more accessible building.

accessible building.



Missing painting of war hero returned to library



turned up left in a carrier bag
The painting of the brave action of
Sergeant William Jordan in 1915 was thought to be lost forever when it went missing, presumed stolen, in September 2013.

It was painted by Francis Gibbons,

A PAINTING of a First World War hero in action, which went missing more than two years ago, has been left on the steps of Cradley Library.

The oil painting depicting a Briery The oil painting depicting a Brierley Hill war hero rescuing a comrade turned up left in a carrier bag

The painting of the brave action of Sergeant William Jordan in 1915 was more structured. The painting of the brave action of Sergeant William Jordan in 1915 was more structured. The painting of the brave action of Sergeant William Jordan in 1915 was more structured. The painting of the brave action of the Battle of Loos.

opening day of the Battle of Loos. Libraries boss Councillor Rachel Harris said: "I'm pleased that after all this time someone has been brave enough to return the painting to us."





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Dudley Chronicle

Expansion pays off as sales soar

DW Windows Ltd has gone from strength to strength over the last 12 months since renovating its new premises in Meadow Lane, Coseley, creating one of the largest showrooms in the Midlands and generating 14 new jobs for local people.

The company's turnover has increased by 30 per cent and is well on target to double in the next couple of years

Proud

The new state-of-the-art showroom and head office has plenty of space to allow future expansion into new areas and of course enables DW Windows Ltd to showcase many of its market leading products.

The showroom has eight conservatories and orangeries, a couple of porches and dozens of windows and doors on display, allowing customers to see, touch and feel before they invest their hardearned money.

Company director Dave Walters states: "It's been the best business decision I have ever made, opening the new place.

"The response from everyone who visits is overwhelming as the design, planning and creation of Meadow Lane is all my own doing and it really makes me proud when people congratulate me on what I have achieved. The increase in business speaks for itself.

"I am not a businessman. I am a window fitter by trade, from Bilston and have succeeded by doing the best job I can and being as honest and reliable as I can be," Dave adds.

staff. I have a great team around me now and I couldn't do this without them. All I ask of my fitters is to do the job better than if they were doing it in their own home and this pays off as six out of 10 of the new jobs we do are for repeat customers or recommendations.



DW Windows Ltd - Brand New 7600 square feet showroom over two floors

Success

Steve Bull, former England and Wolves legend, opened the new showroom in July last year which was a massive success and since then the phone just hasn't stopped ringing.

They are doing 40-50 quotations per week and since the open day have completed almost 500 new installations ranging from orangeries to single windows or doors. January has been the best on record with a 50 per cent increase in business on January 2015.

DW Windows Ltd are now nearing the end of their first 10 years of trading and are looking forward to the next 10 years.

How Green Shoots £1m is real Plus for business

been handed out to busi-nesses creating 123 jobs thanks to grants from the Express & Star.

Nineteen companies have bene-

Nineteen companies nave benief fitted from the Green Shoots Plus scheme run in conjunction with the University of Wolverhampton. A further £1.2m is in the process of being agreed and £2m is still up for grabs. So far 42 jobs have been protected, supporting £3.34m of private sector investment.

sector investment.

MPs have heralded the scheme and urged more small to medium-sized companies to submit bids.

Wolverhampton North East MP Emma Reynolds said: "I would encourage all small and medium-sized businesses to apply for this pot of money so they can invest in their industries and create new jobs.

Radical

"The fund has already been successful in creating more than 100 jobs and is a shot in the arm for the local economy."

omy."
South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson said: "What is so great about this scheme is that it is a partnership between Britain's biggest-selling regional newspaper the Express & Star and an academical institution delivering on the ground and making a different selling sel ing on the ground and making a differ-

ing on the ground and making a difference for lots of people.

"This is a radical approach to handing out government grants and it must be commended because it is working so well and improving the local econ-

omy."
Companies to benefit include Food
Trade International in Netherton who
were awarded a grant of £150,000
which will create around 13 new jobs
and protect a further three by purchasing new machinery and equipment the ing new machinery and equipment the amount of work it can handle.



With the cheque, from left, Green Shoots fund board chairman professor lan Oakes, Express and Star editor Keith Harrison, and the University's Business Solutions Centre manager Gary Dimmock, with board members

Express & Star editor Keith Har-rison said: "It is great to see Green Shoots Plus making a real difference for our businesses here in the Black Country and Staffordshire and be-

yond.

"Small and medium-sized businesses are the backbone of the economy and many of them are in need of a helping hand to reach their full potential, create new jobs, and make a more preparence society."

prosperous society."
Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor
Ian Oakes said: "We are delighted to
act as the conduit to allocate this government funding into the region for
small companies to become competitive and grow and create jobs."

Applicants can seek a grant worth between £10,000 and £150,000 to cover up to 30 per cent of the costs of their plans for job creation and expansion.

The project, administered by the University of Wolverhampton and overseen by a panel of expert business leaders, uses money from the Govern-ment's Regional Growth Fund. Green Shoots Plus aims to create

and safeguard more than 370 jobs at small and medium sized enterprises across the Black Country, Stafford, South Staffordshire, Shropshire, Tel-ford & Wrekin, and Herefordshire. Apply at www.wolverhamptonbsc. com/greenshoots or on 01902 321272.

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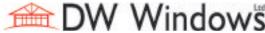
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Pupils are praised for their Poppy Appeal efforts

PUPILS at two Dudley schools have been congratulated for their efforts raising money for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal. Schools across the borough were

Schools across the borough were challenged to raise as much money as possible for the appeal 100 years on from the First World War. Schools across the borough raised £6,121 in total. Jesson's Primary School in School Street and Holly Hall Academy in Scotts Green Close collected the

The children were welcomed into the mayor's parlour at Dudley Council House where they were presented with a trophy and certificate.

Jesson's collected more than any

other school, bringing in a total of £781, while Holly Hall was the best performing secondary school with

Priory and Sledmere primary schools were not far behind, com-ing joint second after both collected £610.

Malcolm Davis, chairman of Dud-Mactonia Davis, chairman of Dud-ley branch of the Royal British Le-gion, said he was delighted with the pupils' efforts. It was the second year that the challenge had been held after it was launched to coin-cide with the centenary of the out-break of the First World War.

The money is used to help former military personnel and their depend-

Mr Davis said: "I am extremely pleased, we managed to raise a little bit more than last year. We should never forget the terrible sacrifice those people mad. The Royal British Legion has done a great job in mak-ing sure no-one ever forgets. Young-sters are doing their bit."



Mayor Steve Waltho presents Priory Primary pupil Oliver Thackwray with a trophy for the most raised

£800-a-day council 11 chief stays for now

post at cash-strapped Dudley Council children's services department until at least later this year.

The appointment of Merlin Joseph sparked controversy last year with opposition councillors concerned about her high salary. Dudley Council says it has been trying to recruit to permanently fill the role but has been unsuccessful so far.

Deputy council leader, Councillor Judy Foster, said ley will seek to have a permanent replacement later

But she added that the situation would only change if

Ms Joseph has been taken on as interim chief officer for children's services last year.

Meanwhile, officials await results from an Ofsted inspection carried out on the children's service department at the start of this year

Dudley Council was told to make improvements within three to six months of an 'adequate' inspection by Ofsted in 2012.

Male nurse who denied staff kisses loses claim

A MALE nurse who had been accused of grabbing and kissing female staff, including two nurses, at a Dudley hospital has lost a legal claim involving the loss of his job.

A matron and a manager accused Douglas Mate-ta, of Brierley Hill, of 'aiming for young and newly appointed females' at Russells Hall Hospital. He denied the allegations.

The allegations were made against Mr Mateta as he made a legal claim for constructive unfair dismissal at Birmingham Employment Tribunal against

The Dudley Group NHS
Foundation Trust.
After a two-day hearing,
tribunal judge Mr David
Perry decided in favour of
the trust and rejected Mr
Mateta's claim

Mateta's claim.

Mr Mateta had sought compensation totalling more than £71,000 after complaining about pension losses. A claim for discrimination, was not presented. ination was not proceeded with after Mr Perry said it had not been included in Mr Mateta's statement.

Misconduct

Mr Tim Sheppard, representing the Trust, said Mr Mateta had been dismissed for gross misconduct and then re-instated after the claimant complained the dismissal decision had been

The trust relocated Mr The trust relocated wir Mateta at Corbett Hospital, in Stourbridge, where he had previously worked. Mr Mateta, aged 41 who is of Zimbabwean origin, later resigned, making his claim for constructive un-

By David Banner

fair dismissal after alleging his feelings had been in-jured by the Trust's actions of 'torturing his mentality' He complained he had been

of 'torturing his mentality'. He complained he had been forced to resign.

Mr Sheppard accused Mr Meteta of 'inappropriate behaviour' with three staff after allegedly putting his arms around the upper part of a female staff member and being in physical contact with another.

A matron and a manager said two female members of staff had told them Mr Mateta had kissed them on the cheek. The tribunal was told that work routines were changed for some staff because they did not want to work alongside him.

He denied all the allegations in his witness statement and said he loved his job and was half-way through doing his masters degree when the allegations were made. "I was shocked by the allegations," he said, pointing out that he had ten years of service with a good reputation.

Mr Perry said: "I do not believe the claimant was forced to resign."

believe the claimant was forced to resign."

Thief given chance to cure alcohol problem

A MAN caught stealing £70 worth of groceries from a Tesco in Dudley has been given a 12-month community order. Sam Johnson, 27, told police after his arrest that he did have a 'few pounds' in his pocket but he needed the money to buy alcohol.

Recorder Barry Berlin told Johnson, who had a string of Recorder Barry Berlin told Jonnson, who had a string of previous convictions for offences including grievous bodily harm, theft and carrying an offensive weapon, that he should have gone straight to prison. But he added: "I am going to take an exceptional course in your case. I am going to give you the chance to address your alcohol problem." Johnson, of Bodsey Road, Oldbury, who admitted theft from the Burnt Tree Tesco, was told he must attend an alcohol education group.

alcohol education group.

Mr Sean Sidhu-Brar, defending, told Wolverhampton
Crown Court that Johnson was determined to resolve his
alcohol abuse.

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FEARS have been raised that people who rely on public transport could be left stranded after a rural bus service $\,$

The number 147 will no longer run between Halesowen and the village of Catshill, under changes announced by operator First Worcestershire, in a bid to

The company said that it needed to focus resources on

where demand was the highest.

But Romsley Parish Council said it was disappointed with the decision.

It said in a statement: "Buses are a vital part of Roms-

ley and Hunnington's infrastructure.

"They are relied upon by our parishioners to get to the nearest town for vital services or to facilitate onward journeys."

Thursday, March

10

The 144A service is being revised to operate via Sidemoor and replaces service 147 between Worcester and Catshill. There are additional journeys to replace those on service 147, said the bus company, but First will no longer operate between Catshill and Halesowen.

Glory for Roary as Ellie's pet gets national award

orexia when her parents bought her two rabbits to help her through her struggles has seen one of her pets pick up a national award.

Three-year-old Roary was nominated by owner Ellie Taylor, aged 18, from Rowley Regis, for supporting her through a family bereavement, issues at school and also her battle with an eating disorder.

Roary is the latest recipient of

Advotion award from veterinary charity PDSA, for helping his owner through a tough time in her life. Ellie's mum Joanne decided to get two rabbits, Roary and Tiger, in the hope that having responsibility for their care would help her daughter. Tiger died in 2012. Tiger died in 2012.

Roary has been awarded a PDSA ommendation for his devotion to

granddad suddenly. I was also hav-ing problems at school and as a re-sult I wasn't able to cope. l became ill with an eating disorder, anorexia. I was getting professional help for my illness, but still felt there was someillness, but still felt there was some-thing missing in my life. I couldn't go to school, I spent every day with Roary and Tiger. They helped ease my pain. It's amazing that animals can make you feel like this. I am thrilled that this award highlights

thrilled that this award highlights how small pets can make a big difference to people's lives."

Ian Fleming, PDSA's senior vet at the charity's Pet Hospital in Oldbury, the Marion and Christina Ionescu Centre of Surgical Excellence, said: "At PDSA we understand the strength and power of the bond between a pet, be it big or small, and their owner."

NEW

YEAR

NEW

HOME



Three-year-old Roary the rabbit was nominated by owner Ellie Taylor for supporting her at a difficult time

Pair threw bottles at police in car chase

TWO burglars carried out a raid on a shop in Kingswinford then led police on a car chase

through the Black Country.
Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how Daniel Spencer and Craig Smith broke into KP Foods in Kingswinford on New Year's Eve 2014 and made off with a haul of cigarettes worth £5,000 as well as cash and alcohol.

They tried to evade arrest by hurtling through King-swinford, Himley and Sedg-ley, and throwing bottles out of the window of their stolen car at the chasing po-lice vahiela

stolen car at the chasing police vehicle.
Smith, 25, was jailed for two years while 19-year-old Spencer was handed a 12-month jail term suspended for 12 months by Judge Kristina Montgomery QC.
Mr Walter Bealby, prosecuting, said the pair broke into the shop in Beech Road around 12,30am on December 31, 2014, which was heard by the shop's neighbours.

Sped

When police officers at-tended the scene they spot-ted a light blue Volkswagen Passat. The police tried to flag down the car but it sped off, so they set off in pursuit. Officers were led on a

officers were led on a chase through Kingswinford to the A449 towards Wolverhampton, then into Sedgley at speeds reaching 50mph. One of the tyres on the Passat came off, with the metal

sat came off, with the metal rim causing sparks to fly. Mr Bealby said that at one point items were lobbed at the police vehicle, while the defendants also switched

By David Cosgrove

the car's headlights off. He said: "They threw objects out of the window including a number of glass bottles which smashed into the

which smashed into the road near the police can."

The chase finally came to an end in Bridgewater Drive, a Sedgley cul-de-sac, and Spencer and Smith were caught as they tried to escape on foot.

Spencer, of Plascom Road, and Smith, of Warsash Close, both Wolverhampton, both pleaded guilty to bur-

Close, both Wolverhampton, both pleaded guilty to burglary and aggravated vehicle taking at an earlier hearing. Mr Michael Polak, defending Smith, said despite a number of previous convictions the 25-year-old had 'got his life back on track'. Ms Sarah Buckingham, for Spencer, said her client 'has an appalling record' but in recent months had 'proven the can stay out of trouble'. Smith was disqualified from driving for three years and will face an extended

and will face an extended test when he wants to get test when he wants to get back on the road. Spencer was banned from driving for two years, given a four-month electronic curfew and 150 hours unpaid work.

Mental health and wellbeing on agenda

DUDLEY'S Mental Health Trust is preparing to hold an event to celebrate the work communities promoting well-

DUDLEY'S Mental Health Trust is preparing to hold an event to celebrate the work communities promoting wellbeing.

The Minds Matter: Celebrating Wellbeing Together event will take place on Tuesday and aims to raise awareness of the contribution local people are making to promoting mental health. It will be held from 9.30am to 3pm at The Venue in Dudley and will feature an awards ceremony, discussions and workshops including laughter yoga.

Attendees can discuss ideas on how Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust (DWMH) can maintain wellbeing. Mark Axcell, acting chief executive at DWMH, said: "An event like this gives us the chance to make positive links and recognise individuals and groups who really impact our area for the better."

Booking is essential for the event which includes lunch. Email cdw@dwmh.nhs.uk or call (01384) 366517.



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tennis club under way

A £100,000 project to rebuild a Black Country tennis club is under way after vital funding was secured.

Work to rebuild Wall Heath Tennis Club in King-swinford began last month swintord began last month
after grants were awarded
from Cory Environmental
Trust in Britain (CETB),
Dstock Cory Environmental (ICET) and Dudley
Community Forum.

The project gained planning permission in March last year after community support. Work is set to be completed in May

The project will see the clubhouse demolished and replaced with a new one, complete with changing facilities with disabled ac-

The club set a target of £100,000 for funding, and CETB offered half of this. ICET granted £15,000 and Dudley Community Forum added £5,000.

Publishing tips at talk

DUDLEY Writers' Net-work is holding an event in Kingswinford for authors

to find out how to inde-pendently self publish. Surgeon Andrew Slater, who has had two books published this way, will be be giving advice in a talk at Kingswinford Litark at Kingswinford Library on Saturday, March 26, at 10.30am. Places for the free event need to be reserved by calling the library on (01384) 812740.

The library also hosts reading groups.

Daughter faces fear of heights to help charity

to abseil down Dudley Castle to raise funds for the Stroke Association, after her father suffered a series of strokes.

Stefanie Massey, aged 35, from Kingswinford, will

Scan

As he did not experience all of the usual 'FAST' symptoms, which relate to face, arms, speech and time, it meant his strokes weren't

it meant his strokes weren't recognised by professionals until he had a brain scan after his heart attack.

John is now cared for by his wife Susan at their Madeley Road home, along with daughters Stefanie and Gemma, aged 32.

Stefanie, who works at Rainbow Nursery on Stream Road, said: "I wanted to take part in the abseil to

Stefanie Massey, aged 35, from Kingswinford, will face the daunting task of climbing down the medieval walls alongside her partner, Tony Carlino.

Both Stefanie and Tony will climb the spiral staircase to the top of the castle towers, before abseiling to the ground.

She has decided to fundraise for the charity after her father, Joseph Warr, aged 67, had several of strokes over a period of two years, which went undiagnosed until he had a major heart attack in April last year.

"I have taken part in an

"I have taken part in an abseil before for charity but vowed never to do it again, as I'm scared of heights. This will be a real challenge" lenge.

Katrin Winstanley, of the Katrin Winstaniey, or une Stroke Association, said: "We're calling on even more adrenaline junkies to con-quer Dudley Castle, and help raise vital funds for the Stroke Association"

To sponsor Stefanie, visit www.just giving.com/ stefanie-carlino or text the amount to GFCP80. Visit www.stroke.org.uk/dudley



Stefanie, inspired by her father Joe, both of Kingswinford, is to abseil the medieval walls of Dudley Castle

upto

limited availability

Doctor gets helping GPs

A FORMER Kingswinford student has received an MBE from Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace for services to General Prac-

services to General Practice.

Clare Taylor, 36, went to Summerhill School on Lodge Lane, Kingswinford, and then King Edward VI College in Stourbridge.

She studied medicine at the University of Cambridge, graduating with a distinction in 2003.

Clare, who lives near

Clare, who lives near Stourbridge, is now an academic GP at the Uni-versity of Birmingham, which means she combines research and teaching with

clinical practice.
Since 2007 she has been involved with the work of the Royal College of General Practitioners in London, and took a leading role in a project to help GPs through their forma-tive years of independent practice.

Ventilation firm expands

AN international ventila-tion firm has almost doubled its space at a Black Country industrial estate. Elta Group has taken on an additional 44,619 sq ft

an additional 44,019 sq ft space at the Pensnett Es-tate, Kingswinford, which is owned and managed by London & Cambridge

Properties.

It has agreed a 10-year lease for Building 45, which, with the existing unit it occupies, takes the company's premises on the estate to 95,699 sq ft.



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A DISPERSAL order has been introduced to crack down on anti-social behaviour in Coseley, including robberies.
Police have put the measure in place at Clayton Playing Fields in Old Meeting Road

after an increase in reports of crime in the

Sergeant Adam Revell from the Coselev Sergeant Adam Reveil from the Coseley East neighbourhood policing team, said: "There had been an increase of calls made to the area around and including Clayton Playing Fields relating to low level crime, anti-social behaviour and robbery offences.

"Intervention work was undertaken and, with the help of partners, the core group responsible for the anti-social behaviour were identified.
"Anti-social behaviour contracts have been taken and a dispersal order was set up and police patrols have been increased." Police can use dispersal orders to break up groups of youths gathering in an area and menacing the general public. 'Intervention work was undertaken and

Police tackle yob gangs in Coseley Midland MPs joining forces to protect British steel industry

Government to provide more support for the crisis-hit steel industry in the West Midlands.

Action is set to be taken after a Midland Steel Task Group Meeting in Wolverhamp-

Steel Task Group Meeting in Wolvernampton saw members put plans in place for a bid to help workers in the region.

The collapse of Caparo has seen hundreds of workers lose their jobs in the Midlands, while Tata Steel, which has a plant in Wednesfield, is set to lay off over 1,000 staff, although the axe isn't expected to fall on any Black Country jobs vet.

It is now hoped MPs from the Midlands will join forces to try to force through an amendment

to the National infrastructure Fian to ensure projects such as HS2 are using British steel. It is hoped that the quality of British steel over that produced by the Chinese can be used as a bargaining tool in securing more contracts for the UK steel industry.

Deals

It was also noted that companies like EDF Energy in France have picked up lucrative deals that could have gone to British companies, while steel firms in Germany and Italy keep contracts to themselves. That's a model which members suggested should be followed by the UK in order to benefit the industry.

The task group is also making contact with Jonathan Hill, the UK's European Union com-

Inissioner, who members hope win light the British steel industry's corner on the continent. Wolverhampton North East MP Emma Reynolds said: "We have to put as much pressure as we can on Government to try and save the in-

"One of the best ways will be to get through to the commissioner, Jonathan Hill. He has a voice in the EU, if we can write a letter to him,

Paul Forrest, head of research for West Mid-lands Economic Forum said: "There has been a huge investment in foreign steel which is damaging our industry. Obviously some people have interests in getting cheaper steel from China if it saves their business money, but its really damaging the trade."

Bar gets OK to open later

A BAR will be allowed to stay open until the early hours of the morning despite concerns raised about rowdy behaviour

concerns raised about rowdy behaviour.
Presley's Bar in High Street, Cradley
Heath, will now be able to say open until
1.30am between Thursday and Saturday
and 12.30am the rest of the week. The
venue can also play music until 12.30am
Thursday to Saturday and an hour earlier
the rest of the week.
Cradley Heath Councillor Julie Webb
had protested about the longer hours,
claiming allowing the yeapse to say open

had protested about the longer hours, claiming allowing the venue to stay open later would mean people living nearby having to put up with noise and trouble. However, Sandwell Council's planning bosses agreed to allow the changes.

The bar, which opened at the end of last year on the site of the former Essentials store, had previously had to close at 12.30am between Thursday and Saturday and 11pm during the rest of the week.

Thursday, March

10

Pride of place for Shakespeare



Artist Geoff Tristram, of Stourbridge, with his portrait of William Shakespeare

AN IMPRESSIVE painting of William Shakespeare by a Black Country artist has been chosen to go on display in The Bard's hometown as the 400th anniversary of his death approaches.

It took seven weeks for Geoff Tristram from Stourbridge to complete his oil painting of Shakespeare, quill pen in hand at his writing desk.

It will go on display to mark the anniver-sary of the playwright's death in his birth-place of Stratford-upon-Avon. He died on April 23, which may also have have been

his 52nd birthday. Mr Tristram said the painting was a labour of love for him. "I actually turned my friend into Shake-

Shakespeare's exact birthplace to do the painting. I thought of everything from the lighting to the desk and chair and I even learned how to write as an Elizabethan for

"It was a labour of love – but worth it despite all the backache I entailed after locking myself away to paint it for seven weeks," he added.

Mr Tristram was contacted by Stratford Council to undertake the painting after completing another job for them last year.

He has been a professional artist for 40 years – taking part in exhibitions around the Black Country including '40 Years of Watching Paint Dry' at Himley Hall in

speare to create the unique look of what I wanted," he said.
"I hired a costume and the setting of Hall."

The painting is intended to go on display next month at Stratford-upon-Avon's Town Hall.

Peaky Blinders in Bowie music link

NEVER-BEFORE-HEARD music from David Bowie could feature in the next series of TV drama Peaky Blinders.

Writer Steven Knight has dropped a hint that original music from the late star could feature in the show, which is filmed largely at the Black Country Living Museum.

Bowie recorded some of his final music for Peaky Blinders before he died in January, after which Knight said: "More of that to come."

ders before he died in January, after which Knight said:
"More of that to come."

The writer has also revealed that the music icon was a
huge fan' of the hit BBC2 drama about Birmingham gansters in the 1920s.

The Birmingham-born screenwriter made the comments
in an interview with Crime Scene magazine, on which the

The Birmingham-born screenwriter made the comments in an interview with Crime Scene magazine, on which the show's main star Cillian Murphy was on the cover.

The soundtrack for Peaky Blinders has achieved a cult following, featuring the likes of Nick Cave, The White Stripes, PJ Harvey, Royal Blood and Arctic Monkeys.

Festival in move north

BLACK Country indie band Ned's Atomic Dustbin has switched its KYTV Festival from Wolverhampton to

from Wolverhampton to Manchester this year. The festival, named for the band's song Kill Your Television, was held at the Civic Hall in December last vear, but the 2016 festival year, but the 2016 festival will take place at the Man-chester Academy on October 29 because of a £10 million revamp at the Civic Halls. Guests of the Neds at the 2016 KYTV Festival will in-clude EMF and Ferocious

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The name Christadelphian conveys the idea of brothers and sisters in Christ. Christadelphians worldwide believe that the Bible is God's message to man and their understanding and teaching is based wholly on the Bible record, which is why the "Bible in hand" logo is often used. Jesus Christ is seen as central to the message and purpose of the whole book. All Christadelphian meetings contain

praise and thanksgiving. The empha-

is on the death of Jesus, but the sadness of this memory is balanced by a firm belief in Bible teaching that Jesus rose again from the dead. Other meetings on Sundays and weekdays provide opportunities to develop greater understanding of Bible teaching and its implications for daily life. Visitors are always welcome.

But can it be true? Did Jesus really die, then live again as the Bible claims? Speakers giving public talks on Sunday 27th March will highlight the evidence available to support this claim. After all, if Jesus did rise from the dead, and is alive right now, it must have implications for our troubled world.

Do come along to learn more.



www.blackcountrychristadelphians.co.uk



So Grand! Curtain up on the new look for theatre

WITH its sleek seating and swanky bars, these pictures show the new look planned for Wolverhampton's Grand

Theatre.
Artist's impressions show theatre-goers what they can expect after the venue undergoes an

after the venue undergoes an £800,000 revamp.
And, as these pictures show, visitors can enjoy a drink in intimate boothed seating, while the new-look bar has a sophisticated and modern look.
The work will take place during the Grand's annual summer dark period—the time when the theatre closes—and will therefore not affect the line-up of entertainment in the planned season.

Highlight

And the new pictures have been revealed as the venue announced a new season of West End musicals, dramas, dance and concerts. Theatre fans were queuing out the doors when the shows went on sale to Friends of the Grand. Some people waited over an hour to get their hands on the hottest tickets.

get their hands on the notiest tackets in town ahead of the general public, with Tony Christie, Jimmy Osmond, The Stylistics, Maxwell Caulifield and Joe McElderry just some of the big names heading to the stage this summer and autumn.

mer and autumn.

And the highlight of the season will be a concert to celebrate the reopening after the renovation work. A Spectacular Gala Night At The Grand, a version of a night at the proms, will be held on September 10.

The City Concert Orchestra will be led by the theatre's own chief executive, Adrian Jackson. Tickets are already on sale for Curve and Dels in

already on sale for Guys and Dolls in July while The Sound of Music will

run from October 4 to 8.
Call 01902 429 212, or book tickets online at www.grandtheatre.co.uk



The booths in the dress circle will bring a sophisticated look



Chance to enjoy a relaxing drink in the new dress circle bar



You are invited to a Bible talk on

Evidence for the Resurrection

to be held on Easter Sunday, 27 March 2016, God willing



1.30pm Blackheath

Christadelphian Hall, Ross, Blackheath, B65 8BW

2.00pm **Dudley Firs Street**

Christadelphian Hall, Firs Street, Dudley, DY2 7DN

6.00pm **Dudley Queens Cross**

Christadelphian Hall, High Street, Dudley, DY1 1QT

6.00pm Halesowen

Christadelphian Hall, Bromsgrove Road, Halesowen, B63 3JL

Ashwood Park Primary, Bells Lane, Wordsley, DY8 5DJ

Christadelphian Hall, Pedmore Road, Lye, DY9 8DA

6.15pm Oldbury

Christadelphian Hall, St. James Road, Oldbury, B69 2EP

Christadelphian Hall, 39 Dudley Road, Rowley Regis, B65 8JH

2.15pm Wolverhampton

Christadelphian Hall, 129 Penn Road, Wolverhampton, WV3 0DU

10.00am Wombourne

Christadelphian Hall, Church Road, Wombourne, WV5 9EZ

www.blackcountrychristadelphians.co.uk



How will you be remembered?

March is your chance to leave a lasting legacy by including a gift in your Will to one or more of the charities sponsoring Free Wills Month.

Free Wills Month enables people aged 55 and over to make or update their Will for free. This offers you peace of mind $\,$ as you provide for loved ones.

It also provides an opportunity to do something truly memorable by contributing to the work of one or more great causes. Appointments are limited, so don't delay.



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www.freewillsmonth.org.uk

The campaign pays for simple Wills. If your Will is complex, you can pay the solicitor for extra advice. There is no obligation to include a gift to any of the charities.

The campaign is intended for those aged 55 and over.

Children's charities worry over cuts to family services

Beauties put brains in pageant spotlight



Samantha Rostron, aged 17, of Halesowen, is through to finals of the Miss Birmingham competition on March 20

IT'S not just about striking a pose and looking pretty – that's the message from the finalists in the Miss Birmingham contest. Eight contestants remain in the running of the prestigious competition which culminates on March 20. The winner will be chosen at a glamorous finale held at the Burlington Hotel.

More than 800 women entered the annual competition.

More than 800 women entered the annual competition. Among them was 17-year-old finalist Samantha Rostron, of Halesowen, who is hoping to inspire young people. "There is far more to the competition that standing and looking pretty," she said. "I hope to inspire other people, by encouraging them to embrace individuality as well as promoting the importance of self confidence and esteem. "I will be actively raising money and awareness for a charity called Beauty With a Purpose."

Another hopeful is 22-year-old University of Birminghyam PhD student Sian O'Brien, of Oldbury, who wants to 'raise the flag for women in science.'

Black Country's new school has opening target

A NEW secondary school in Sandwell is in the last few months of its construction with it scheduled to open its doors to pupils in September 2016.

Q3 Academy Langley is the first new secondary

is the first new secondary school will aim to have more than 1,500 pupils by 2023. The school, which is on the former Langley High School site at Moat Road, Oldbury, will see 150 Year Seven pupils start at the school this coming Septem-

ber.

Langley High School closed in 2007 but the site continued to be used by the Oldbury College of Sport and Oldbury Academy until 2012, when the school

moved all activity to the former Oldbury Technical School site on Pound Road.

Q3 Academy Langley has already proven popular with parents as all school places for the coming term are already allocated

The school is sponsored by Eric Payne, who also sponsors the Q3 Academy in Great Barr. He said: "I'm really pleased to sponsor Q3 Academy Langley and am passionate about helping to provide children in Sandwell with a good education. The new purpose-built school will provide a wonderful en-vironment for learning and our vision for the future has already proven popular with parents and children."

gling families and young chil-dren across the Black Country could lose almost three quarters of their funding by 2020.

Government money for early help services across the region is expected to be cut by 72.2 per cent from 2010 to 2020, according to figures released

in a report from children's charities. Action for Children, the National Children's Bureau and The Children's Society say the move could have 'severe conse quences' for families and children who rely on early intervention services. These are services such as children's

centres, teenage pregnancy support, short breaks for disabled children, information and advice for young people and family

Government grants to councils in the Black Country and Staffordshire amounted to £128.8 million in 2010/11, a

By Peter Madeley

figure the report says is likely to drop to £36m over the next four years.

The four Black Country authorities will

all lose 73 per cent of their funding, the

all lose 73 per cent of their runding, the report says.

Sandwell is to get a 73 per cent reduction to £7.3m from £27.2m in 2010; Dudley from £18.8m to £5.1m; Wolverhampton from £19.9m to £5.3m and Walsall from £23.3m to £6m. Staffordshire will drop to £12.3m from £39.6m.

Impact

Brigitte Gater, director of children's services at Action for Children in the West Midlands, said: "Governments have hacked away at the budget for early help which has had a devastating impact on local authority spending and we are set to see further reductions, which is simply short sighted

"Intervening when a crisis occurs in-

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stead of working at an early stage to prevent it from happening, has a devastating cost both in social and financial terms.

"The Government has committed to improving children's life chances, giving the most disadvantaged children the start they need. This report raises questions about how this objective will be achieved and whether local authorities will have the capacity to invest in services for chil

and whether local authorities will have the capacity to invest in services for chil-dren, young people and parents. "We are calling on Government to pri-oritise the services children need to help build a better future."

A survey of 53 councillors in the West Midlands revealed that six in 10 are wor-ried that a reduction in funding will mean a reduction in early intervention.

Anna Feuchtwang, chief executive of National Children's Bureau said: "Before making further cuts we urge the Govern-ment to consider the long term decline in how we support these services and in turn the severe consequences it has for the chil-dren and families that rely on them."

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LARGE FREE CAR PARK

Council ban 17 on tinted windows

TAXI drivers will have to remove heavily tinted windows from their cabs in Dudley over safety concerns.

Drivers claimed they are being forced Drivers claimed they are being forced to shell out hundreds of pounds to replace factory-fitted windows on their vehicles because they do not meet council safety regulations. There is a rule that at least 40 per cent of light must be able to travel through back windows of Hackney carriages and private hire taxis in order to be granted a licence by Dudley Council.

Council bosses are set to give cabbies

Council bosses are set to give cabbies three months in which to have the windows changed. The council previously said the rules helped passenger safety in the light of a child sexual exploitation review following

a cmia sexuai exploitation review inolowing incidents elsewhere in the country.

Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association chairman, Shaz Saleem, said: "I think it is scaremongering. There is no evidence of crimes relating to tinted windows."

Dudley Council strategic director, Alan Lunt, said in a report to the committee: "Dudley's policy on tinted glass has re-mained unchanged for many years." It was being discussed this week.

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A coloured photo of a woman being carried in a sedan chair

Feeding the poor on Calcutta Maidan is another of the images in the album



Yukon dog team on an Alaskan canyon circa 1900



The ship The Emperor of Japan in a Singapore harbour

A snapshot of life in globetrotting family

ages documenting a family's life lift the lid on an unseen world - and have turned up in Walsall Wood more than a century after being taken.

The collection of photographs and postcards were presented to auctioneers Hansons at a valua-

tion day.

The seller, who lived in the area and asked to remain anonymous, explained she had worked for an elderly lady who left her images to thank her for her hard work. She was given four photograph and postcard albums containing pictures from all around the world dating from around 1900.

dating from around 1900.

The owner is identified in the albums as Alice M Findon who built up a series of images sent to her from globetrotting relatives.

One family member, named only as George, served in the Army, which saw him end up in India. He was based in Alhalabad with his

MEMORY LANE

regiment and sent back pictures to an Edith Findon, possibly his wife. Crowds are seen huddled to-gether in one image entitled 'Feeding the poor on the Calcutta

Maidan. An image of George himself is also included, sitting in a wooden chair in full uniform, the photograph addressed to Soho Road in Handsworth.

Handsworth.

It is not known how the images came to be in Alice's possession. Stunning pictures from Canada, China and Japan also form part of the album. Some are in vivid colour not normally associated with photographs from the time.

One is a striking portrayal of Japanese Geisha girls which manages to be both grainy and incredibly clear. Another shows a woman being carried in a sedan chair.

In one, an Indian woman, appar-

In one, an Indian woman, apparently 114 years old, is standing outThe ship The Emperor of Japan is also seen lurking ominously in a Singapore harbour in another

a Singapore harbour in another image.

Others were sent by Alice's brother Walter Findon who travelled to America in search of fame. During his stay in California his photographs and postcards offered a view of what early 20th century America was like.

The San Pedro Harbour and a crowded beach in Long Beach with everyone wearing full Edwardian dress were among images he sent

dress were among images he sent back. According to Alice, Walter emigrated to the States where he starred in silent movies. The spectacular array of im-ages left auctioneers at Hansons stunned. Head of media Emma

stunned. Head of media Emma Carberry said the collection was unique and delivered a fascinating insight into barely seen parts of the globe at this time.

They go on sale at an auction between March 17 and 19 and are

expected to sell for between £150 and £200.



Chickasaw Indian Squaw 'Auntie Kate, aged 114



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Mon at 7pm, O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

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James Morrison Mon at 7pm, £26.50 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

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Craig Campbell



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Thriller Live Fri at 5pm, 8.30pm, Sat at 4pm,

8pm, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Goodnight Mister Tom Tue at 7pm, Wed at 1.30pm, 7pm, Thu at 1.30pm, 7pm, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Alice In Wonderland Fri at 7pm, Sat at 7pm, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

The Best Thing
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Of Mice And Men Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £8.50 - £35
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Fame: The Musical: Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

M6 Theatre: Tadpoles (Over 5s) Sat at 11.30am, 2pm. Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

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Thu at 6pm - 7.30pm,
Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, Call 0121 248 0708

Ray Mears: Tales Of Endurance Sat at 7.30pm - 10pm, Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ Call 0121 780 3333

COMEDY

The Best In Live Stand-up

Comedy
Fri at 7pm, Sat at 7pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Richard Herring: Happy Now? Tue at 6.45pm - 11pm, £15 The Glee Club, Birmingham, Call 0871 472 0400

Mark Watson: I'm Not Here Sun at 6.45pm - 11pm, The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Romesh Ranganathan: Irrational Fri at 8pm, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Call 01785 254653

Comedy Carousel & The Real Food Canteen Thu at 7pm, The Glee Club, Birmingham B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Ken Dodd: The Happiness Show Sun at 7pm, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Craig Campbell: Don't Look

Friday, 7.30pm Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ Call 0870 320 7000

CLUBBING

Andrew Weatherall Sat - Sun at 9pm - 3am, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

Graeme Park Graeme ra... Fri at 9pm, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

OTHER EVENTS

Hobbycrafts Thu from 9am The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair Wed at 9.30am - 4pm, Thu at 9.30am - 4pm, The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Fri at 8.15am - 6.30pm, Sat at 8.15am - 6.30pm, Sun at 8.15am - 6.30pm, The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT.

Call 0121 780 4141

Check out full listings in the ticket in Friday's Express & Star

Beautiful sound of Paul and Jacqui



Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbot from The Beautiful South are reunited and will be playing in Birmingham tonight

THEIR comeback was one of the biggest stories of recent years. Erstwhile Beautiful South stars Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott have enjoyed a string of sell-out shows.

Their new album, Wisdom, Laughter And Lines, was released in October. And the duo are back on the road for a major UK tour, including the O2 Academy in Birmingham tonight

O2 Academy in Birmingham tonight (Thursday).

Their second album together cel-ebrates life's simple pleasures and mixes the political with the personal. Heaton and Abbott have created a formidable partnership. Their voices fit together like hand and glove.

Heaton has the ability to write

songs about almost anything but has said he has always struggled to write "out and out" love songs. "I always struggled to write about love. I did get better with things like You Keep It All In and I'll Sail This Ship Alone when I was in The Beau-tiful South. But I still struggled to write an out and out love sons

"It's funny considering that my two favourite songwriters are Smokey Robinson and Elvis Costello, who both specialise in writing songs about love. I could never nail it myself but I think that I have got a lot better."

Emotional Mister Tom

A POWERFUL stage production of popular children's novel Goodnight Mister Tom, in which a reclusive grump is given a new lease of life by a wartime evacuee, is coming to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre.

Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre.

Director Angus Jackson has brought to life Michelle Magorian's emotional family-favourite story in an award-winning adaptation by David Wood that will be staged from Tuesday to Saturday, March 19.

The book, first published in 1981, was turned into a television film starring John Thaw in 1998.

This latest touring production also has star quality with popular RSC/National Theatre, radio and television actor David Troughton as Mister Tom.

David, son of 1960s Doctor Who Patrick Troughton, will be a familiar voice to fans of BBC Radio 4 soap The Archers, in which he plays Tony Archer. His TV roles have included Dr Buzzard in A Very Peculiar Practice, Ricky Hansen in New Tricks, Sgt Harvey in Jericho and Stan in Sky's The Cafe. He is also father of actors Sam and William Troughton, and of Warwickshire cricketer Jim Troughton. Birmingham-raised director Jackson, whose theatre career began as an usher at the Symphony Hall, has also directed the Royal Shakespeare Company's new production of Don Quixote, with David Threlfall and Rufus Hound, which is currently being performed in Stratford-upon-Avon at The Swan Theatre.

New music acts worth discovering

Worth discovering
THE pick of the new and emerging acts to be heard this week include Mancunian trio Man Made at Birmingham's The Obleck (near The Custard Factory in Digbeth) tonight. Tomorrow Grimes takes her Acid Reign Tour to the O2 Academy and Karl Monroe have a hometown headline slot at the O2 Institute. Acclaimed Welsh songstress Gwenno is at the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath tommorow and Albrighton singer-songwriter Richi Jones launches his Into The Fire EP at the same venue on Monday. Liverpool trio Elevant bring their sonic squall to The Actress and

sonic squall to The Actress and Bishop in the Jewellery Quarter on Saturday.

Old favourites are back on the circuit

AFTER five years Liverpool outfit The Coral are back with eighth album, Distance Inbe-tween, and a gig at Birming-ham's O2 Institute tonight (Thursday). The same venue

(Thursday). The same venue hosts Reef tomorrow night. Pauline Black brings The Se-lecter to Wolverhampton Slade Rooms on Saturday, the same night punk veterans The Strannight punk veterans The Stran-glers play classic 1978 album Black And White at Birming-ham 02 Academy. At Bilston's Robin 2, Fragile with Claire Hamill present a tribute to Yes tonight, Paul Young does his Tex-Mex thing with Los Paca-minos tomorrow and New York rockers Tyketto play Saturday.

Fame success is mirrored by actors

A HIGH energy new production of Fame by Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company is being staged at the city's Grand The-atre from Tuesday to Saturday, March 19.

The musical, based on the hit 1980 movie, is set at New York's School of Performing Arts and follows four students through ups and downs from their first

audition to graduation.

The production is also a swansong for talented Wolverhampton actors Luke Bennett and Liam Sargeant. Luke, 17, is off to stage school in London and 20-year-old Liam is to study English Language and Litera-ture at Oxford University.

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under 16's coach fare only £14.00

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CHOICE



Phillip Schofield

You're Back in the Room (ITV, 8.30pm)

New series. Phillip Schofield returns with the comedy game show in which five must team up to win a potential £25,000 by completing apparently simple challenges. However, to claim their prize, the contestants must overcome the hypnotic trance they have been placed under by celebrity mesmerist Keith Barry. For this first edition, Phillip and Keith are joined by Andrea McLean, Sherrie Hewson, Linda Robson, Nadia Sawalha and Kaye Adams - the ladies of Loose Women - who will be pampered by the hypnotised contestants.

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live 11 30 Mary Berry's Foolproof Live. 11.30 Mary Berry's Foolp'roof Cooking, (R) 12.00 BBC News, Weather. 12.10 Football Focus. 1.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 3.00 Flog It! (R) 3.45 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.30 Final Score. 5.00 BBC News. 5.10 Regional Programme. 5.20 Match of the Day Live. The FA Cup. Everton v Chelsea (Kick-off 5.30 ml).

7.30 The Voice UK. The battle stages are now over, and Paloma Faith, Boy George, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson each now have a complete team of would-be stars under their team of would-be stars under the tutelage. The next challenge the contestants face is the first stage of the knock-outs, in which they must carefully select and perform a "killer song" that will elevate them above their team rivals, as the coaches whittle their eight chosen singers down to three.

8.45 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List. Retired publicans Ray and Diane from Chelmsford, Essex, build a wish-list that incorporates a number of item that celebrate their 40 years of marriage, and Shane Richie offers them a chance to win their dream prizes by answering questions in a selection of tricky categories. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws, presented by Gaby Roslin.

Casualty. The repercussions of the defibrillator accident continue to reverberate for Lofty, who must face the consequences of his accident continue to reverberate for Lofty, who must face the consequences of his accidents at a beaugity. When the opportunity to help Lana arrives, he decides to skip his meeting and lend her a hand instead. Meanwhile, Cal hijacks an ambulance to take Ethan and his alling mother to an old family holiday destination, and while there, the brothers decide to finally read the results from the genetics lab. Medical drama, starring Lee Mead. 9.35 Casualty. The repercussions of

10.25 BBC News; Weather.

10.25 bbt NewS, weather.

10.45 Match of the Day. Highlights of the latest Premier League fixtures, including Norwich City v Manchester City at Carrow Road; National Lottery Update.

11.30 Film: The Ring. (2002) Horror remake, with Naomi Watts. 1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.20 BBC News.

RRC2

B.10 Film: Station West. (1948) 9.40 Film: The Master of Ballantrae. (1953) Film: The Master of Ballantrae. (1953) 11.10 Natural World. (R) 1.200 Rick Stein's India. (R) 1.00 The Best Dishes Ever. (R) 1.30 The Best Dishes Ever. (R) 2.00 Film: An Ideal Husband. (1999) Oscar Wilde comedy drama. 3.30 Coast. (R) 4.15 The TV That Made Me. (R) 5.00 Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) 6 00 Gardeners' World (R)

 G.30 Queen Victoria's Children. The concluding episode focuses on the monarch's sons, examining how they struggled to assert these concluding the conclusions. they struggled to assert themselves in the shadow of their father, it explores Victoria's difficult relationships with the eldest. Bertie, whose sexual indiscretions she blamed for laving fatally weakened her husband's health, and Leopold, who put up the most determined effort to break free from his mother's control. Last in the series. (R)

series. (R)
7.30 Back in Time for the Weekend.
The Ashby-Hawkins family
discovers what the future might
hold for people's free time. As they
reflect on their time-travelling
experience, they also reveal how
living in the past has changed,
how they feel about the present
and their hopes for the future. The
family have some robotic
housework help, and Steph and
Rob try a futuristic gym fad,
"Immersive Fitness". Meanwhile,
Seth embraces some cuttino-edue "Immersive Fitness". Meanwhile, Seth embraces some cutting-edge technology that takes him away from using screens, and Daisy tries a new-age camera that records her day without cutting her off from her friends. Last in the

8.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring camps the platoon in the middle of a firing

the platoon in the middle of a firing range, forcing Corporal Jones to make a desperate effort to raise the alarm. Starring Arthur Lowe and Clive Dunn. (R)

9.00 Stag. Johnners' stags have been reduced to four, and the survivors realise they must make a final stand if they are to avoid sharing their friends' grisly fate. Last in the series.

10.00 Film: The Talented Mr Ripley.

(1999) Anthony Minghella's thriller, with Matt Damon. 12.10 Line of Duty. (R) 2.10 Film: The Salton Sea. (2002) 3.45 This Is BBC Two. 5.45 Great British Garden Revival. (R)

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. 6.15
Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.25 Dino
Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino
Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 Signed
Stories: Share a Story. (R) 6.45 Signed
Stories: Share a Story. (R) 6.50 Sooty.
(R) 7.05 User 4. (R) 7.15 Looped. (R)
7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled! 7.35
Scrambled!: Horrid
Henry. (R) 8.10 Scrambled!: Horrid
Henry. (R) 8.10 Scrambled!: Horrid
Henry. (R) 8.10 Scrambled!: Jessie. 9.05
Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R)
9.25 Murder. She Wrote. (R) 10.25 The
Jeremy Kyle Show USA; 11.20 TIV
News: Weather: 11.24 Regional
Programme. 11.25 The Jeremy Kyle
Show. (R) 12.30 Live Six Nations Rugby
Union. Ireland v Italy (Kisck-off 1.30pm).
3.25 Live Six Nations Rugby Union.
Coverage of the second match from the
fourth and new littings from the England v Wales (Kick-off 4.00pm).
Coverage of the second match from the fourth and penultimate round of fixtures, which comes from Twickenham. An injury-hit Wales recorded a memorable 28-25 victory at this venue when the sides last met during the 215 World Cup. England held a 16-9 half-time lead, but their opponents produced a fine second half display to turn the match around and eventually qualify for the knockout stages at the hosts' expense. However, England made a strong start to this campaign and will be hopefully of gaining revenge in this contest.

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.
7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Ant & Dec's Saturday Night
Takeaway. The duo are joined by
Craig David for the big finale of
this week's Show. Mel B interviews
dogsitters in I'm a Celebrity, Get
Out of Me Eart, while Little Ant and
Dec chat to Jennifer Lawrence and
her The Hunger Games co-stars.
Another lucky player has the
chance to win all the items
advertised in the break.

8.30 You're Back in the Room. New series. Phillip Schofield returns with the game show in which five

with the game show in which five strangers are hypontised by Keith Barry, then asked to complete simple tasks in the hope of winning £25,000.

The Jonathan Ross Show. Actress Glenn Close, comedy actor and writer Marlon Wayans and X-Files star Gillian Anderson take a seat on Jonathan's sofa.

10.30 ITV News: Weather

10.45 Film: Moonraker. (1979) Spy adventure, starring Roger Moore. 1.20 Jackpot247. 3.00 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 3.55 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.40 The King of Queens. (R) 7.05 The King of Queens. (R) 7.30 MSA British Rally Ouens. (R) 7.30 MSA British Rally Championship. 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.00 The Morning Line. 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.00 The Superhumans Show. 11.30 The Superhumans Show. 11.30 The Simpsons. (R) 12.00 The Simpsons. (R) 15.00 The Sim

6.10 Come Dine with Me. On the final day of the competition in south-east London it is part-time event east London it is part-time event organiser Gina's turn to throw a dinner party. She rolls out an evening of fine dining inspired by her love of cookery courses, but her culinary prowess fails to make an impact on Vincenzo, as he reveals he already ate dinner at home due to his belief that women can't cook. Meanwhile, Leah reveals a surprising heauty secret can't cook. Meanwhile, Leah reveals a surprising beauty secret from her youth during the main course, before a self-penned poem from the host brings tears to David's eyes, and the winner is revealed. (R)

revealed. (R)
6.35 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Crufts 2016. Clare Balding hosts in the received from the second day of the prestigious annual dog driven the second day of the prestigious annual dog driven the second day of the prestigious annual dog driven the second day of the presenting its 125th anniversary. Presenting itse 175th anniversary. Presenting live from the NFC in Birmingham. Clare is joined by Supervet Professor Noel Fitzpatrick to discuss advances in the field of canine health, and answer viewers' questions. Plus, the host introduces is udoing in the the host introduces judging in the Working and Pastoral groups.

9.00 Lee Evans - Monsters. The energetic stand-up star rails against the annoyances of modern life, in a performance recorded at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham in 2014. Lee's routine sees him tackling the selfle phenomenon, the problems associated with getting older, and the numerous ways he tries to keep his long-suffering wife happy.

10.00 Film: Riddick. (2013) Premiere. Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Vin Diesel and Katee Sackhoff.

12.20 Film: Kick-Ass. (2010) 2.25 Hollyoaks. (R) 4.30 Ultimate Dealer. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 8.45 The Fairly OddParents. 9.20 The Saturday Show OddParents. 9.20 The Saturday Show Live. 11.20 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.20 Police Interceptors. (R) 1.15 Pets Who Hate Vets. (R) 2.15 Psycho Pussies: When Cats Attack. (R) 3.15 90 Cats and Counting: Cat Crazies. (R) 4.15 Kitlen Impossible. (R) 5.10 41 Dogs in a 3-Bed Semi. (R)

3-Bed Semi. (R)
 6.10 Now That's Funny! A collection of internet-sourced videos with a family friendly hook, featuring laugh-out-loud unexpected personal moments now being shared with the world. (R)

7.10 5 News Weekend.

7.15 World War II in Colour. This edition focuses on the final days of Hitler and the Third Reich as German forces were surrounded by Soviet troops from the east and the Allies' advance from the west.

8.10 The Gadget Show. Ortis and Jon take on delivery service Amazon Prime using a selection of the latest transport technology, and mobility scooter inventor Colin Furze reveals his latest projects.

The Championship: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches from the Championship, ncluding Huddersfield Town v

10.00 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present highlights from the League One and League Two, including Burton Albion v Fleetwood Town at the Pirelli

u Law & Urder: Special Victims
Unit. Stabler and Benson
investigate the death of a 17-yearold girl and discover a suspect in
the case may have been
deliberately passing on the HIV
virus to his many sexual partners.
(R) 10.30 Law & Order: Special Victims

(R)

11.20 Law & Order: Special Victims
Unit. Benson and Stabler have to
tread carefully when they
investigate the deaths of a wealthy
couple and find themselves
playing a game of politics and
double bluff. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 Police
Interceptors. (R) 4.00 Carry on
Caravanning. (R) 4.50 Divine Designs.
(R) 5.20 HouseBusters. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7. 00 Human Planet 8.00 Survivors:
Nature's Indestructible Creatures 9.00
Trapped 10.40 From Andy Pandy to
Zebedee: The Golden Age of Children's
TV 11.40 Duebs at the BBC 12.40 Sound
of Cinema: The Music That Made the
Movies 1.40 Top of the Pops: 1981 2.50 Triusoo
Violinists at the BBC 3.55 Close

ITV2

11.10 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night
Takeaway 12.45 The Almost Impossible
Gameshow 1.40 Scorpion 2.35 Film:
Nancy Drew (2007) 4.40 Catchphrase
5.45 Film: Legally Bionde (2001) 7.40
Film: Back to the Future Part III (1990)
1.00 The Keith Lemon Sketch Show
10.30 Family Giy 12.00 American Dadl
12.55 bizz Weefender 1.58 DecowitiReturn to the Shieldlands 2.40 Rixton:
The Hot Deck 2.50 Telesbonout The Hot Desk **2.50** Teleshopping

6.55 Midsomer Murders 11.00 A Touch of Frost 1.05 Blue Murder 2.25 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping

ITV4

11.45 Storage Wars 12.45 Live Snooker:
World Grand Prix. The opening semifinal. 5.15 Storage Wars 5.45 Storage
Wars: Texas 6.45 Live Snooker: World
Grand Prix. The second semi-final. 11.15
Live FIA Formula E Championship. The
Mexico City ePrix. 1.15 Hell on Wheels
2.15 Motorway Patrol 2.45 ITV4
Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping

E4
1.30 The Jump: The Final 1.05 The
Goldbergs 3.00 The Big Bang Theory
9.00 Film: Limitless (2011) A failed
writer acquires a drug that increases his
brain power, but his new abilities attract
dangerous attention. Sci-fi finifiler,
starring Bradley Cooper. 11.05 Tattoo
Fixers 12.05 Gogglebox 2.15 The 100
3.00 How I Met Your Mother 3.45 Rules
of Engagement 4.55 Revense. of Engagement **4.55** Revenge

11.00 New in Town (2009) 1.00 Tooth Fairy (2010) 3.00 Five Children and It 11.00 New in John Strike Children and It (2004) 4.45 Home Alone 3 (1997) 6.55 Admission (2013) 9.00 2 (1908) 6.55 Admission (2013) 9.00 2 (1908) 2013 Two undercover agents become fugitives after a disastrous sting, but each thinks the other is a real criminal. Action adventure, with Denzel Washington. 11.10 Magic Magic (2013) Premiere. A woman suffers from insomnia while on holiday in Chile, causing her grip on reality to weaken as she succumbs to paranoia. Thriller, with Juno Temple and Michael Cera. 1.15 Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (2009) 3.05 Close





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CHOICE



Nikesh Patel

Indian Summers (Channel 4, 9pm)

New series. The drama series set in 1930s colonial India returns, picking up the story three years on from the first series. The British vicerov is seriously injured in a terrorist attack, Aafrin is suspected of being involved and tries to keep his double life as a nationalist spy a secret. He discovers Alice has now married an Englishman, but their feelings for each other remain unresolved Cynthia nushes Ralph to advance his career, but Madeleine has other plans.

6.00 Breakfast. 8.15 Match of the Day.
(R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00
The Big Questions. 11.00 Regional
Programme. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R)
1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 The TV
That Made Me. 2.00 Live Sk Nations
Rugby Union. Scotland v France (Kickoff 3.00pm). 5.05 Songs of Praise. 5.40
Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6 30 BBC News

6.50 Regional Programme. 7.00 Countryfile. Adam Henson visits Aberystwyth University to meet students who are working towards a career in farming, and takes a look at some features on young look at some features on young farmers from past episodes. Highlights include Matt Baker meeting twin sisters looking to break into farming, Helen Skelton chatting to a farmer who became the world darts champion, and Radio 1 DJs Scott Mills and Christ Stark working at Vauyball City Stark working at Vauxhall City Farm. Including Weather for The Week Ahead.

Farm. Including Weather for The Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents an episode focused on Indian art and culture from the Neasden Temple in North London, revealing the connections between British and Indian history. Among the artefacts being valued are ceremonial robes used in the Delhi Durbar, a ring given to a boy by a princess, a Rolls Royce made for the Maharajah of Jodhpur and a bracelet found in a children's toy box that turns out to have a surprising background.

9.00 The Night Manager. Pine gets involved in an arms deal, but his relationship with Jed jeopardises his cover. Bur begins to suspect that Roper has been buying arms from the British government.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark
Chapman reviews the day's only Premier League fixture, which was Aston Villa v Tottenham Hotspur at

11.00 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Action from the sixth round, including this afternoon's clash between Manchester United and West Ham United.

11.30 Film: It's a Wonderful Afterlife (2010) Supernatural comedy, starring Shabana Azmi.

12.45 Weather for the Week Ahead.

RRC2

6.45 An Island Parish. (R) 7.15 This Farming Life. (R) 8.15 Gardeners' World. (R) 8.45 Countryfile. (R) 9.45 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.15 The Best Dishes Ever. (R) 11.45 Winter Youth Olympic Games 1.2.15 M OTD 2 Extra. 1.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 3.00 Film: Strictly Balliomo. (1982) Australian dance comedy, starring Paul Mercuro. 4.30 Gymastics World Cup. 6.00 Figg II Mark Stacey and Adam Partridge value Items in Bangor, north Wales, including a collection of thimbles and an artifuge sextant. Presenter Paul Martin also ords explores one of Thomas Tellords. Feds of engineering when he visits the Menal Suspension Bridge. (R)

7.00 Who's the Boss? (R)

7.00 Who's the Boss? (R)
8.00 Steve Backshall's Extreme
Mountain Challenge. Part two of
two. The naturalist reaches the
peak of one of Venezuela's tepui
mountains, before joining a party
of Italian cavers as they venture
into the unexplored caverns
within. Inside, they discover
strange wildlife and evidence of
the geological forces that dive the
tepuis their unusual shape. Finally,
the team returns to the ground by
abseiling down the Angel Falls, the
world's highest waterfall.

9.00 Let's Play Darks for Sport Relief
2016. Gabby Logan hosts the final
of the charity darks challenge from
the Lakeside. Frimley Green, in
which professional players team
up with celebrities. She is joined
by all the competitors to take part
in the eardier nounds who look.

by all the competitors to take part in the earlier rounds, who look back on their performances and the highs and lows of the tournament. Last in the series.

10.00 Thirteen. Ivy is put under pressure to relive her ordeal, but her responses make Merchant suspicious that she is lying. She turns to Tim for support, only to suffer a crushing betrayal.

11.00 The People v OJ Simpson:
American Crime Story.
Prosecutor Marcia Clark faces Prosecutor Marcia Clark taces negative feedback, while differing goals divide the defence team as preliminary hearings and arduous jury selection get underway. (R) 11.50 Film: The Magdalene Sisters. (2002) Drama, starring Geraldine McEwan, Anne-Marie Duff and Fileen Walsh

Eileen Walsh.

1.45 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 2.40 Holby City. (R) 3.40 This Is BBC Two.

B. 00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. 6. 15
Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6. 25 Dino
Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6. 25 Dino
Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6. 35 Dino
Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6. 35 Dino
Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6. 35 Dino
Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6. 45 Signed
Stories: Share a Story. (R) 6. 35 Sooty.
(R) 7. 30 Degramation (R) 7. 35
Scrambledt: Morarid
Henry, (R) 8. 10 Scrambledt: Horrid
Henry, (R) 8. 10 Scrambledt: Herrid
Henry, (R) 8. 10 Scrambledt: Bear Grylls
Survival School. 9. 08 Scrambledt: The
Tom & Jerry Show. (R) 12. 5 Formula E
Highlights. 10. 25 Formula E
Highligh

6.45 ITV News; Weather.
7.00 Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands. Rheda escapes from her captors in Bregan, only to find that Abrecan's army is closing in on her kingdom, and he has gathered many allies to help him in his plan to take over Herot. A last minute intervention from Slean may ward off disaster, but Rheda realises she must make a great sacrifice to persuade an old foe to help her.

8.00 The Story of Cats. How cats went from wild predators to domestic pets, exploring why humans are inclined to find kittens cute and how future generations of cats may lose their hunting instincts

may lose their fluthing insurince.

9.00 Doctor Thorne. Sir Roger falls seriously ill and is likely to die soon. His son arrives in town, and to Dr Thorne's horror, takes a liking to Mary. Miss Dunstable urges Frank to follow his heart.

urges Frank to follow nis heart.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Houdini & Doyle. New series.
Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry
Houdini help police investigate the
case of a nun allegedly killed by a
phost

ghost.

11.15 Six Nations Highlights. Action from the fourth round of the championship, with highlights of England v Wales at Twickenham, Ireland v Italy at the Aviva Stadium and Scotland v France at Murzaffield Murrayfield

12.15 Jackpot247. 3.00 ITV Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.40 The King of Queens. (R) 7.05 The King of Queens. (R) 7.05 The King of Queens. (R) 7.30 Everyhody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Everyhody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) 1.30 Film: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days. (2012) Family comedy sequel, starring Zachary Gordon. 3.20 Film: Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief. (2010) 5.40 Channel 4 News.
6.00 The Secret Life of the Zoo.
Cameras follow Chester Zoo's four

vi) 5.40 channer 4 rews.

The Secret Life of the Zoo.
Cameras follow Chester Zoo's four new fledgling Humboldt penguins who are being brought up apart from the main colony until they're old enough to compete for fish in the main pool. They're keen to make a break for it and join the adults, but when they're finally free to go they have other ideas. Elsewhere, Niall the chimpanzee keeper has known chimp Boris for 44 years. When the ape captures a moorhen chick, Niall must use his powers of persuasion to negotiate the safe release of his hostage. (R) Crufts 2016. Clare Balding hosts coverage of the final day of the 125th annual dog show from the NEC in Birmingham. Highlights of the day's main arena events include the winner of the Frieds!

the day's main arena events include the winner of the Friends for Life competition, the Flyball and International Agility finals, judging of the Terrier and Hound groups and the announcement of Best in Show 2016. Plus,

Best in Show 2016. Plus discussion of canine health and welfare with from Professor Noel Fitzpatrick, Kate Bevan and Nick Blayney. Last in the series. Indian Summers. New series. The drama series set in 1930s colonial India returns, picking up the story three years on from the first series. The British viceroy is seriously injuryed in a terrorist series. The British viceroy is seriously injured in a terrorist attack. Aafirn is suspected of being involved and ries to keep his double life as a nationallat spy a secret. He discovers Alice has now married an Englishman, but their feelings for each other remain unresolved. Cynthis pushes Ralph to advance his career, but Madeleine has other plans.

10.00 Film: Slumdog Millionaire. (2008) Danny Boyle's Oscarwinning drama, with Dev Patel.

12.20 The Last Leg. (R) 1.20
Embarrassing Bodies Down Under. (R) 2.15 Come Dine with Me. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshakel: Peppa Pig. 6.05
Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 6.15 Angelina
Ballerina. (R) 6.30 Bob the Builder. (R)
6.45 Tickely Toc. (R) 6.55 Zack and
Quack. (R) 7.05 Roobarb and Gustard
Too. (R) 7.15 Make Way for Noddy. (R)
7.25 Paw Patrol. (R) 7.35 Little Princess.
(R) 7.50 Pholy (R) 8.05 Blaze and
the Monster Machines. (R) 8.35 Ben and
Hollys Little Kingdom. (R) 8.50 Wanda
and the Allen. (R) 9.05 Toby's Travelling
Circus. (R) 9.20 Jelly Jamm. (R) 9.35
LazyTovn. (R) 9.35 The Fairly
OddParents. 10.30 The Championship:
Football League Tonight. (R) 11.30 Goal
Rush: Football League Tonight. (R) 12.00
Film: Zathura: A Space Adventure.
2005) Family sci-li adventure, starring
Josh Hutcherson and Jonah Bobo. 2.00
Film: Big Mormas: Like Father, Like
Son. (2011) 4.15 Film: Flubber. (1997)
Clidrentocomedy remake, starring Children's comedy remake, starring Robin Williams.

6.00 Now That's Funny! A collection of internet-sourced videos with a family friendly hook, featuring laugh-out-loud unexpected personal moments now being shared with the world.

7.00 Budgies Make You Laugh Out Loud. Compilation of internet videos featuring the antics of budglies and other birds, from flying fails to performing parrots and real-life angry birds.

 8.00 Penn & Teller: Fool Usi in Vegas. Simon Pegg joins one of this episode's contestants on stage to exist with a till vegic in so there.

episode's contestants on stage to assist with an illusion involving a wind-up watch. Plus, a selection of card tricks, including one that uses a violin.

5 News Weekend.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film. Jonah Hex. (2010)
Premiere. A disfigured bounty
hunter able to communicate with
spirits of the dead is captured by
the Government who offer him a
deal. In return for his freedom, he
must defeat a plan to take over the
country that is being
masterminded by the man who
killed his family and left him
hyrithy scarred Fartaev Weetern horribly scarred. Fantasy Western, starring Josh Brolin.

10.20 Film: Angels & Demons. (2009) 10.20 Film: Angels & Demons. (2009)
Academic adventurer Robert
Langdon is called in by the Vatican
to search for four kidnapped men
in line to become Pope. Thriller
sequel, starring Tom Hanks.
12.50 Tattoo Disasters UK. (R) 1.15
SuperCasino. 3.10 Benefits by the Sea:
Jaywick. (R) 4.00 Wildlife SoS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four 7.00 Jigs & Wigs: The Extreme World of Irish Dancing 7.30 What Do Artists Do All Day? 8.00 Pappano's Classical Voices 9.00 Horizon: Secrets of the Solar 9.00 HORIZON: Secrets of the Solar System 10.00 The Sky at Night 10.30 Film: In the House (2012) 12.10 Len Goodman's Big Band Bonanza 1.10 A Blackpool Big Band Boogie: Jools Holland and His Rhythm & Blues Orchestra 2.10 The Story of British Pathe 3.10 What Do Artists Do All Day? 3.40 Close

ITV2

11.55 Take Me Out 12.55 Film: Nancy
Drew (2007) 3.00 Film: The Incredible
Hulk (2008) 5.05 Ant. & Dec's Saturday
Night Takeaway 6.45 Film: Miss
Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous
(2005) 9.00 Ibiza Weekender 10.00
Family Guy 10.30 Bordertown 11.00
Family Guy 12.00 American Dadi 12.55
The Cleveland Show 1.55 Totally Bonkers
Guinness World Records 2: 15
Teleshopping 5.45 ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3

ITV3
I1.50 Wycliffe 12.55 Lewis 7.00
Midsomer Murders 9.00 Carry On
Forever 10.00 Sunday Night at the
Palladium 11.00 Piers Morgan's Life
Stories: Donny Osmond 12.00 Like
Father, Like Son 2.45 May the Best House
Win 4.25 On the Buses 5.20 Judge Judy

1744

12.45 Live Snooker: World Grand Prix.
The opening session of the final. 5.15

Storage Wars 6.45 Live Snooker: World
Grand Prix. The second session of the
final. 11.15 Film: Above the Law (1988)
1.20 Ax Men 2.20 Motorway Patrol 2.45

ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping

L4 12.30 The Goldbergs 2.30 Film: Big (1988) 4.35 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 10.00 Tattoo Fixers 12.00 Rude Tube 1.10 Virtually Famous 2.00 The Aliens 2.55 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 3.40 Hollyoaks

Filma

1.00 Aliens in the Attic (2009) 2.40
Unidentified Flying Oddball (1979) 4.30
Rat Race (2001) 6.50 The Three
Musketeers (2013) John McClane goes to
Moscow and helps his ClA agent son
stop the Russian Mob from stealing
nuclear weapons. Action adventure
sequel, with Bruce Willis. 10.50 Pusher
(2012) A drug dealer ends up in debt to a
sadistic gangster and faces a race against
time to pay back the money. Crime thriller
remake, starring Richard Coyle 12.35
Underworld: Awakening (2012) 2.15
Adam & Paul (2004) 4.00 Close

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FILM CHOICES

A Mother Betrayed, Channel 5, 3.15pm Five years after her husband is run off the road and killed by a mysterious driver, the head of a prosperous architectural firm decides to remarry. However, she's unaware that her new spouse has a devious plan to Psychological thriller, starring Lynn Collins, Adam Kaufman and Joanna Cassidy. (2015)

After All These Years, Channel 5, 3.15pm A woman learns her husband intends to leave her for

A wontain realist an instanct or beave ferror another woman shortly before their wedding anniversary. She goes on the run after becoming a suspect when he is found murdered, intending to identify the real killer with the aid of her friends and an old flame. Mystery, starring Wendie Malick and Gregory Harrison. (2013)

WEDNESDAY

Damaged, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A high-school teacher's life is turned upside down when a new student moves into the area and they develop a mutual attraction for each other, leading to a string of undesirable events. Thriller, starring Chris Klein, Merritt Patterson and Tasya Teles. (2014)



THURSDAY

Nightmare 911, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A police 911 operator is fired after mistaking a real murder for a prank call, and feeling guilty for allowing the crime to happen, she sets out to find the killer herself before he or she strikes again. Thriller, starring Fiona Gubelmann, Scott Bailey and John Lee Ames (2015)

For Your Eyes Only, ITV, 11.10pm

James Bond goes in search of a British weapons system aboard a sunken vessel before it falls into the hands of enemies who will use it to deactivate all Western submarines. Unfortunately, his mission is hindered by a crossbow-toting woman out to avenge her father's murder. Spy thriller, starring Roger Moore, Topol, Julian Glover, Carole Bouquet, Jill Bennett and Lynn-Holly Johnson. (1981)

Famous faces do their bit for a good cause

t may not be quite as big as Comic Relief and Children in Need, but Sport Relief can claim to be TV's most painful telethon.

In the years since its inception in 2002, athletes and celebrities have been falling over themselves (sometimes literally) to push their bodies to the limits while raising massive amounts of each e amounts of cash

In 2006, David Walliams's swim across the Channel grabbed the headlines, and he's since swam the Strait of Gibraltar and the River Thames.

Groups of celebrities have accomplished feats such as climbing Mount Kilimanjaro and cycling from John O'Groats to Land's End, while Christine Bleakley, Davina McCall and Helen Skelton have all accomplished amazing events.

But the most impressive of all is Eddie Izzard. He ran 43 marathons in 51 days in 2010 – this time around he's been attempting to complete 27 such runs in as many days, to mark the number of years Nelson Mandela spent in prison.

Oh yes, and he's been doing it in South Africa, where it has often been 30 degrees by 10am. We'll get to see how he did in this programme, as well as how much money he raised.

Other famous faces who have been pushing themselves to the limits include Radio 1's Greg James, who completed five triathlons in five days in the middle of winter, while Jo Brand walked across the country from Hull to Liverpool, in often appalling weather.

This evening, at east London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, leading lights from the worlds of sport, music and entertainment will gather to see how more athletes and celebrities can inspire us to hand over our cash.

Top of the bill is Michael Crawford. lop of the bill is Michael Crawford, who will reprise his 1970s role as calamity-prone Frank Spencer in a one-off Some Mothers Do Ave 'Em sketch that will see the hapless character in a number of calamitous escapades culminating in a chance meeting with cycling legend Bradley Wiggins.

of the sports challenge Clash of the Titans. They will lead teams that will also include Darren Gough, Paddy McGuinness, Harry Judd, Sophie Raworth and Hugh Dennis.

The show will also feature live music performances, including the first performance of the official charity single, while famous faces including Danny Dyer, Marvin and Rochelle Humes show how the money raised could help change lives both here in the UK and around the world.

Members of the public have also been encouraged to take part in the Sport Relief Mile, Swimathon and Cycle which will see people all over the UK raising money through sponsorship from their friends and family.

But if putting on your tracksuit and trainers and spending a few minutes huffing and puffing in your local park isn't your cup of tea, then settle down in front of the TV for five and a half hours of entertainment – and make sure you have your credit card handy so you can pledge money to some of the worthy causes featured in between the fun and games.



Fundraising fun, Sport Relief 2016, Friday, BBC1, 7pm

BEST OF THE REST

Only Connect Sport Relief Special BBC2, 8,30pm

When it comes to taxing the old grey matter Victoria Coren Mitchell's quiz could win gold if there was a cerebral gymnastics contest at the Olympics. So it's a good job some of the smartest folks in the media and showbusiness have been assembled for this charity edition of the contest. Hugh Dennis, musician Julian Lloyd Webber and writer Lynne Truss take on writer and comedian David Baddiel, poet John Cooper Clarke and novelist Philippa Gregory. Can they make the connection between a series of eclectic clues? Will Lynne's team play, win and leave, or will they be eclipsed by David and company? And just what is the connection between Donkey, Xanthus, Balaam's ass and Mister Ed? There's only one way

TUESDAY Inside Obama's White House BBC2, 9pm

For millions of folks, religious or otherwise, Easter is synonymous with food, whether it's hot cross buns or novelty chocolate eggs. Taking a break from her Great British Bake Off duties, Mary Berry takes a closer look at the connection between faith and food

at one of the most important times on the Christian calendar. And if you're lacking inspiration on what to rustle up over the Easter holidays, then rest assured that the beloved baker will be sharing some of her own favourite recipes, including Simnel cake, roast lamb, and hot cross buns. In episode one, Mary discovers the traditions followed by diverse British families and communities during Lent and Good Friday, and the food that unites them.

WEDNESDAY Brendan O'Carroll: My Family at War

Writer and comedian Brendan O'Carroll tells the story of the Irish Easter Rising, in which 1,600 Irish rebels took over the centre of Dublin in Easter week 1916 Despite overwhelming odds, the rebels held out against the forces of the British Empire for six days until they were driven into submission. Three of the rebels were O'Carroll's uncles, and on the centenary of the revolt, he looks into the part his family played in it, and explores how the Rising signalled the birth of today's

THURSDAY The Secret History of My Family BBC2, 8pm

The documentary charting social history by exploring different family trees continues with the story of Lavinia and Florence, two Victorian women from opposite ends of the social scale who were

brought together by domestic violence. One was desperate to feed her six children in 1880s London, the other came from a lavish county home and ventured into the slum to help a fellow mother. The film tells the saga of a woman from the workhouse whose descendant ended up at Eton and a family from the landed

gentry who

thre off the burden of past Brendan O'Carroll: My Family at War, Wednesday,

Unreported World Channel 4, 7.30pm

New series. For the first of the programme's 31st series of hard-hitting reports, Marcel Theroux and his director Victoria Bell head to Malaysia, where the government has declared transgender people to be enemies of Islam. The pair meets the transwomen who are being forced to live in what human rights groups claim is one of the worst places in the world to be transgender. The duo also accompany members of the country's religious police force as officers crack down on anything they consider to be un-Islamic.

Channel 5, 9.55pm
The NCIS team is assigned to a joint terrorism task force by the Secretary when a Moscow-born scientist who it is believed may have been targeted by the Russians for selling state secrets, is found dead. The trail appears to lead to a friend of Sofia's, another scientist who worked for Russia and who may have succumbed to professional jealousy. However, when she too is found dead, the team discovers the hallmarks of Sergei Mishney, the terrorist who nearly killed Gibbs. Starring Mark Harmon, Michael Weatherly and Pauley Perrette.





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BRAIN GYM

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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off. R LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION $\stackrel{2}{\mathsf{D}} \stackrel{1}{\mathsf{U}} \stackrel{1}{\mathsf{B}} \stackrel{5}{\mathsf{S}} \stackrel{6}{\mathsf{H}} \stackrel{7}{\mathsf{P}} \stackrel{8}{\mathsf{V}} \stackrel{9}{\mathsf{K}} \stackrel{10}{\mathsf{Z}} \stackrel{10}{\mathsf{O}} \stackrel{12}{\mathsf{D}} \stackrel{13}{\mathsf{T}}$

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

2. I am taken in by

a fat Scottish

landowner (5)

3. Southern company

punishment (7)

4. A motto put out for

put out (5)

6. Not a sunny greeting (3,4) 7. Odd way in which

the vegetarian (6) 5. A duck I'd always

the debtor finds

himself (5,6)

8. One who thinks of

things first? (11)

14. A stirring instruction

to the player (7)

16. Intercept an order execute? (4,3)

17 It swoons down on

alfresco celebration

quarry (6)

19. Go beyond an

(5)

press for means o

Cryptic Clues:

- 1. Make up the deficiency with a denture, perhaps (5,3,3)
- 9. Unvarying dress (7) 10. A current issue in a letter (5)
- some antiquity (5)
- 12. Housing row (7)
- balances (6) 15. Doesn't sound it
- 18. When an I.O.U. runs out it could
- 20. A papal order to cause dismay (5)
- 22. Insist on having things just right (5) 23. Noisy new trio love
- 24. Unemployed jester who won't let

(7.4)

21. In short, a final anyone take him in result of a snap decision (5)

Quick Clues: Across

- 1. Stormy (11)
- 9 Artist (7)
- 10. Earlier (5) 11. Fat (5)
- 12. White ant (7)
- fish, so rises with its 13. Pact (6) 15. Spent (6)
 - 18. Disregard (7)
 - 20. Evade (5)
 - 22. Characteristic (5)
 - 23. Mohammedan (7)
 - 24. Warlike (11)

- 2. The pick (5)
- 3. Long-suffering (7)
- 4. Elf (6)
- 5. Superior (5)
- 7. Favourable moment (11)
- 8. Impiety (11)
- 14. Etch (7)
- 16. Violinist (7)
- 17. Cord (6)
- 19. Praise (5)

21. Devil (5)

Thinking space Sudoku

						_	-	
4			1		7		3	
	3	7	4					
	5				8			2
2		5			3	6		
	7			1			5	
3		9	5			1		4
7			9				8	
					6	4	2	
	4			7	1			9

Fill in the grid below so that every column boxes contains all the digits

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Straight, 5 Stud; 9 Once;
10 Interest; 11 Final; 12 Epitaph; 13 Under
employed; 18 Rest-oure; 19 Toss; 20 Blemish;
21 Forge; 22 Date; 23 Progress. Down: 2 Tension; 3 Average; 4 Hunger-marcher; 6 Therapy;
7 Ditched; 8 Denial; 13 Unrobed; 14 Descent;
15 Reacol; 16 Outdoor; 17 Ensigns. QUICK Across: 1 Deletion; 5 Spin; 9 Wasp; 10 Striking;
11 Quiet; 12 Instant; 13 Senselessness; 18
Outright; 19 Step; 20 Fiction; 21 Grain; 22 Dusk;
23 Resemble. Down: 2 Erasure; 3 Express; 4
Outside chance; 6 Primate; 7 Negates; 8 Kisses;
13 Scoffed; 14 Notices; 15 Elicit; 16 Nostrum;
17 Special.

Quiz

1. On which date is St George's Day?

| M | Y | N | W | C | Q | I | G | E | X | R | A | F

- 2. Of which island group is Jura a
- 3. Who painted A Bigger Splash in 1967?
- Which disease is also called varicella?
- Who founded the Grey Friars in 1209?
- 6. Which part of the body is affected by
- 7. With which instrument is Fritz Kreisler associated?
- 8. Who played vet James Herriot in the TV series All Creatures Great and Small?
- 9. In which US state is Las Vegas?
- 10. In geometry, what do 60 minutes make?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Balliol: 2 Bruce Kent: 3 Russian

- 4 Molière; 5 John Prescott; 6 Miklós Rózsa;
- 7 Liíl Folks: 8 Jeremy Thorpe:
- 9 Kurt Vonnegut Jr; 10 James Baker

Niner: REVOLTING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters

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2	3	4	5	6	7

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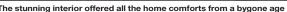
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Counting our blessings for such





a superb stay in Brecon Beacons

sions of beautiful barren mountains where only the most dedicated hikers and bikers go with their backpacks and hi-vis vests

their backpacks and hi-vis vests - right? Wrong! So wrong...
Never have I been so impressed with one particular area and all it has to offer. The pretty towns - even in February; the friend-liness of people; and the stunning wildlife and scenery, even if you don't make it to the top of one of those mountains which are a constant backdrop.

Brecon Beacons Holiday Cottages was established 30 years ago by owner, Elizabeth Daniel who has grown the business and built a fantastic selection of unique properties for

ously so proud of, the team are always on hand

By Graeme Andrew

ously so proud of, the team are always on hand to offer any tips and advice about what is going on around them. There is also network of local businesses and services which can be used at a discount, via various vouchers available.

We stayed at a stunning little cottage called the Counting House in the picturesque village of Talybont-on-Usk, with both the River Usk and the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal running through it.

Built partly on stilts, the Counting House

Built partly on stilts, the Counting House dates back to 1814 situated at the end of the dates back to 1814 situated at the end of the Brynoer tramroad. It is therefore a grade II listed building, predominantly made of stone rubble, with a Welsh slate roof, and has various delightful features including gothic archways and upside down accommodation offering spectacular views over the canal and the Vale of Usk into the distance.

It has just been renovated and offers mod cons you would expect from any cottage in any

ternet and mobile phone service you are used to! My wife and I unwittingly shared these

to! My wife and I unwittingly shared these out. My phone could get texts and calls and she was able to log onto her email account!

A first morning walk along the canal was just the ticket for getting some of that fine country air into our lungs, with a gentle unwinding session carried on in one of the fine hostelries Talybont had to offer. We plumped for the White Hart Inn. Truth be told, it was the nearest to our cottage, so not too far for us to stagger back afterwards! But the roaring open fire. lovely Rhymmev's ale and fine

us to stagger back atterwards! But the roaring open fire, lovely Rhymney's ale and fine food certainly won us over.

We had days out in Abergavenny and Brecon, each with their own attractions, and each with a stunning mountain as a backdrop – Sugar Loaf and Pen Y Fan, respectively.

Abergavenny is steeped in ancient history and there is plenty to keep the enthusiast interested, but for me the Linda Vista Gardens, with its collection of all earts of trees was

with its collection of all sorts of trees, was

of it, but my goodness, it is an awesome sight.

Brecon has real character and a military feel, across the years, with links to the Zulu Wars, among many others. The cathedral is truly imposing, both inside and out, and there is a lovely walk which takes you down to the water's edge where the Honddu and Usk rivers meet.

Osk rivers meet.
We also managed to take in Tretower Castle and Court, which is a quirky stop-off and again something for the history enthusiast.
We came away from our stay in Brecon

Beacons realising that we had only scratched at the surface. A comfortable two-hour drive away, with something to offer the visitor across all seasons, one day we will make it to the top of one of those mountains and wonder

at the beauty of one of Britain's most unsung national parks. But when it's a bit warmer! For more information, contact enquir-ies@breconcottages.com, telephone 01874 676446, or log onto www.breconcottages.com



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Dudley Chronicle Thursday, March 10, 2016

Three-bedroom family home near Penn Common





THIS three-bedroomed semi-detached in a popular location is within walking distance of Penn Common, St Bartholomew's Church and Primary School and the amenities at Penn Village.

Requiring some general modernisation, the house on Wakeley Hill is for sale through Sanders Wright & Freeman at £170,000 with no chain. Having excellent potential to re-style, it has a

Having excellent potential to re-style, it has a reception hall, linked dining and living rooms, kitchen, three good size bedrooms and a family bathroom.

A driveway to the front and side provides offroad parking and there is a garage and a rear

For further information contact Sanders Wright & Freeman on 01902 575555 or visit the website www.swfestateagents.co.uk



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28

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Kingswinford 01384 401777 Brierley Hill 01384 265265 Sedgley 01902 880888

Also at Stourbridge and Halesowen



KINGSWINFORD, Park Street

A SUBSTANTIAL, BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED, DETACHED FAMILY HOME within Kingswinford's highly sought after 'Old Quarter', just a short walk from amenities, offering a very spacious, attractively re-appointed FOUR LARGE BEDROOM layout, including a stunning Bathroom which doubles as an EN-SUITE to the master bedroom, plus having a large driveway, DOUBLE GARAGE and a excellent sized, landscaped garden. EPC D



SEDGLEY, Bath Street

£314,950

EXCITING CONTEMPORARY DESIGN! - Fastidiously appointed recently built SPACIOUS detached.Hall study lounge, OUTSTANDING Dining Kitchen Lobby laundry F/cloaks; FOUR Bedrooms (2 en-suite)bathroom DOUBLE GARAGE. EPC: C. SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, 'Algar Grange', Off Dudley Road

RARE OPPORTUNITY! Exciting development of 11 plots under construction by the Woodbourne Group of gas centrally heated & double glazed detached BUNGALOWS/dormer bungalows within walking distance of Sedgley's Bull Ring & all associated amenities. Three designs available with prices from £218,500 up to £264,500, and First Phase scheduled for early April. SAP: T.B.A. Further details with Agents Sedgley Office.

PRICES FROM £218,500



LOWER GORNAL, Musk Lane

NO UPWARD CHAIN.An extremely well presented DETACHED property situated in the popular of Lower Gornal. This THREE BEDROOM family home benefits from; spacious entrance hall, attractive kitchen-diner, utility, Living room, dining room, guest W/C, stunning family bathroom, double glazing and gas central heating, garage, driveway which offers ample parking to front and rear garden. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £214,950



SEDGLEY, Warren Drive, Northway

Stylish, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed link-detached with tremendous distant views comprising; hallway, cloakroom & further store, 26ft through living/dining room with doors out to garden, kitchen with an extensive range of units & various integrated appliances FOUR BEDROOMS (principal bedroom with en suite), bathroom. Carport, large garage, garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



KINGSWINFORD, Astor Road

Delightfully situated within this small exclusive cul de sac, this REFURBSIHED & IMPROVED TWO BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW offers a freshly decorated / appointed layout, plus a driveway, CARPORT, large Garden Store and a pleasantly laid out garden. EPC D

Offers in the region of £210,000

Offers in the region of £229,000

No upward chain £189,950



KINGSWINFORD, Surrey Drive

AN IMMACULATE, BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED, THREE BEDROOM END TOWNHOUSE within this very popular address, offering a very spacious, attractively re-appointed and tastefully decorated layout, plus a driveway, GARAGE and a beautifully landscaped tiered garden. EPC D



DUDLEY, East Street

This SUBSTANTIAL and EXTENDED, SEMI-DETACHED HOME is furnished with a LARGE WELL FITTED KITCHEN and FOUR GENEROUS BEDROOMS. Also comprising: TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, FAMILY BATHROOM, En Suite Shower Room, Driveway, GARAGE and a Pleasant Rear Garden. EPC: D



SEDGLEY, Turls Hill Road

EXTENDED Edwardian gas centrally heated, recently double glazed & recently re-roofed semi-detached conveniently situated within walking distance of all the Sedgley amenities and also open fields comprising; Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room,Conservatory, Upgraded kitchen. THREE bedrooms, bathroom. Parking to front, former garage, secluded garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £155,000

£174,950

£169,500

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, March 10,

, 2016

Taylors

the property professionals

Kingswinford

Brierley Hill 01384 265265

01902 880888

Also at Stourbridge and Halesowen



SEDGLEY, Wolverhampton Road

Elegant, SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED Victorian family residence' constructed in 1894 to first quality design incorporating many fine 'arts and crafts' period features offering significant further potential and with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS comprising; porch, reception hall, cloakroom, sitting room (with projecting corner bay window) magnificent 39°9' dining/family room, inner lobby, kitchen, walk-in understair pantry. FOUR BEDROOMS (bedroom one with shower room en suite & bedroom two with projecting corner bay), bathroom, cellar. Extensive grounds, ample parking, two car garage & further outbuildings. EPC: E SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £475,000



COSELEY, Seagull Bay Drive

Magnificent, tremendously enhanced, gas centrally heated, & double glazed detached residence in exemplary order throughout upon wider than average plot comprising; entrance vestibule, hall, lounge, sitting room, dining room leading to CONSERWATORY, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom. Four generous bedrooms (principal en suite), bathroc LARGE DOUBLE GARRAGE/MORKSHOP (227"x 136"), block paved in/out driveway, gard

Offers in the region of £250,000



LOWER GORNAL, Ash Grove

NO LPWARD CHAIN. Beautifully presented DETACHED bungalow situated in a cul-de-sac location within the popular area of Lower Gornal. This TWO BEDROOM bungalow benefits from entrance hallway, good-sized living room, refitted kitchen-diner, utility, en-suite to master bedroom, family bathroom, central heating and double glazing, detached double garage, enclosed ornamental rear garden. EPC:T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £210,000



LOWER GORNAL, Robert Street

A modernised, improved & enlarged, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached in popular district comprising half, 23°2" through him; poom formerly separate rooms), uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, kitchell Merobedrooms, barbonom with a white suite and a useful ATTIC (with veilur skylight). Parking lengthy through store, LARGE GARDEN with various outbuildings. EP-CT.B.A. SEPGLEY

Offers in the region of £154.950



SEDGLEY, Dormston Drive

Situated within walking distance of Bull Ring; a gas radiator centrally heated, uPVC double glazed detached comprising; hallway, cloaks, 24'5" through living/dining room, kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. block paving, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers around £154,950



WORDSLEY, Marlborough Gardens

A DECEPTIVE FAMILY MID TOWN HOUSE superbly located, close to good primary schools and shops, a position enhancing the GENEROUS and WELL PRESENTED layout which includes THREE BEDROOMS. Set beyond front lawns and to the rear is an attractively landscaped rear. EPC D

£134.950



LOWER GORNAL, Fiveways Court, Off Lake Street

50% SHARED WHERSHIP Exceptionally stylish, gas centrally heated double gizzed intermediate house in GATED entities of countries of the countries of the GATED entities. Ground floor is a reception half, cloakroom, kitchen, lounge (with doors out to garden), store. THREE BEDROOMS (tremendous second floor bedroom with domers and skylights), bathroom, garden, parking, Vendors 50% share for sale at £66,000 or full sale price £132,000. PECC. \$EDGLEEF.



COSELEY, Cedar Avenue, Bramford Estate

Absolutely outstanding, meticulously maintained, EXTENDED, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached in exemplary order throughout comprising, enlarged porch, hall, lounge with bay, store, sitting room (double French doors out to garden), breakfast room, upgraded kitchen, shower room. Three bedrooms, bathroom with a white contemporary style suite. Shortened 'garage', block paved drive, lengthy garden. MINING SEARCH AVAILABLE. EPC-T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £130,000



LOWER GORNAL, Sandstone Close

Exceptionally well presented residence situated in this well sought after area of Lower Gornal with OPEN ASPECT VIEWS to rear. This family home, ideal for first-time buyers benefits from living room, kitchen-diner, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, central heating, double glazing, rear garden and drive to front. Viewing essential to fully appreciate this fantastic property. EPC: D. SEDGLEP.

New price WAS £134,950, NOW £129,950



GORNAL WOOD, Brook Street

A immaculately presented traditional detached property located in the extremely popular area of Lower Gornal, Dudley. This superb started home benefits from living room, dining room, kitchen-diner, TWO BEDROOMS, double glazing and gas central heating, enclosed rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: TRA. S.EDGLET.

WAS £124,950, NOW £119,950



GORNAL WOOD, Brook Street

Beautifully presented, traditional, IPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, TWO BEDROOM mid-terraced property set in the popular, coman Wood. This Biabulous home benefits from the popular command Wood. This Biabulous home benefits from the popular command wood that biabulous home benefits from the popular command to the popular command with the popular command with the property of the popular command the property has to offer. EPC: D. SEDGLEY Command to the property has to offer. EPC: D. SEDGLEY command the property has been property has to offer. EPC: D. SEDGLEY command the property has to offer. EPC: D. SEDGLEY command the property has to offer. EPC: D. SEDGLEY command the property has to offer. EPC: D. SED

Offers in the region of £114,950



DUDLEY, Old Park Road

EXTENDED, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) & primarily either UPVC or aluminium double glazed semi detached with potential in popular district comprisingsports, hall, lounge we bay, sitting room with patio doors, extended L shape kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, good size garden & tarmacadam foregarden (kerb dropped). EPC:D SEDGLEY



PENSNETT, Hodnet Drive

Encompassing a GRIGEOUS WELL FITTED KITCHEN being OPEN PLAN TO CONSERVATORY, This STUNNING, MODERN HOME comprises. Porth, Stylish Lounge, Two Bedrooms, First Floor Shower Room & Additional, Large, Top Floor Family Bathroom. VIEW EARLY IEFS.

Offers in the region of £109,950

£109,950

£86,950



LOWER GORNAL, Boundary Hill

Traditional style, gas centrally heated semi detached home is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN and may be an ideal first time purchase. Accommodation briefly comprises entrance hall, guest w.c., through lounge, kitchen with a fine range of units, three bedrooms, bathroom & rear graden. EPC. D SEDGLEY



BROCKMOOR, Briars Close

This DELIGHTFUL & VERY WELL PRESENTED, TWO BEDROOM PROPERTY would make a LOYELY FIRST HOME and comprise Porch, Pleasant Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two First Floor Bedro Well Appointed Bathroom, Off Road Parking & Pretty Rear



LOWER GORNAL, Stickley Lane

SPACIOUS 3 BEDROOMS! Offering potential, a conscientiously maintained, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) and uPVC double glazed intermediate Starter home" for further modernisation comprising; hallway, through lounge, dining room, kitchen, pantry. THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom. Lobby, store/.toilet. Good distant views. PEC C. SEDGLEY



PENSNETT, Birds Meadow

ATTENTION INVESTORS: Situated in this popular location, This EXTENDED & SPACIOUS, THREE BEDROOM HOME briefly comprises: Hall, Lounge, EXTENDED BREAKFAST KITCHEN, Guests W.C., Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, HUGE GARDEN & LOVELY REAR



BRIERLEY HILL, North Street

THIS EXPENSIVELY APPOINTED & SPACIOUS, IMMACULATE, TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT comprises: Hall, Attractive Sitting Room, Fantastic Kitchen Diner, Two Generous Bedrooms, Well Appointe Modern Bathroom, Allocated Parking, Pretty Communal Ground: EPC D

Offers in the region of £99,950

Offers in the region of £99,500

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Three-bedroom detached bungalow priced £189,950





attractive three-bedroomed detached bungalow in Bagnall Street, Tipton, is for sale through Goodchilds at £189,950.

at £189,950.

It has gas central heating, double glazing, off-road parking and a carport/storage, front and rear gardens. There is an entrance hall, a lounge with patio doors, a dining room/third bedroom, a kitchen/diner with cream modern units, integrated oven, electric hob, cooker hood fridge and freezer hob, cooker hood, fridge and freezer Two bedrooms, one with fitted ward-robes, and a family bathroom. Call Goodchilds on 0121 5067670 or visit www.goodchilds-uk.com

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O/A £350,000

- 19 BREAMORE CRESCENT, DUDLEY
- Beautifully presented & extended modern detached house
 Benefitting from a two storey rear extension
 Main feature is the comprehensively equipped kitchen/family room
 Spacious family accommodation with ample off street parking
 SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C

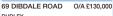




£179.950 75 NORTHWAY, SEDGLEY

- . Well presented link detached house
- Three bedrooms, through lounge & dining room
 Well proportioned accommodation with gas central heating
- •Situated on the popular Northway housing estate •SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E





- Extended accommodation
- •Three bedrooms



4 FLAVELLS LANE

- Three bedrooms



LAND FRONTING FIRS STREET

- ·Subject to Local Authority consent Rectangular area of land
- Approximately 0.134 acres
 SEDGLEY OFFICE

- 63 BAKER STREET



- WOLVERHAMPTON

 Modern coach house apartment

 Two bedrooms

 Open plan lounge & kitchen

 Parking space, communal grounds

 SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C



73 LONGMEADOW DRIVE, SEDGLEY

- Well proportioned three bedroom family home

 Enviably positioned on the popular Northway housing estate

 Extended breakfast kitchen, lounge, sitting room with dining area

 Wide garden plot with wooded area and open fields to the rear

 SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING TBC





O/A £279.950

£169.950

3 HARVINGTON ROAD, COSELEY

- . Detached house with three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms, extended dining room, utility Well maintained and attractively presented accommodation
- Occupying a pleasant and convenient location
 SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E











- •Two bedrooms

- Ground floor bathroom
 SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING B



LAND AT TIVIDALE STREET/DUDLEY PORT O/A£210.000

TIPTON





15 DAFFODIL CLOSE

SEDGLEY •Modern semi det Three bedrooms



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Sedgley Lomond Road





A pleasant, three bed end terraced family home in a popular location, with double glazing and central heating. Downstairs has a fitted dining kitchen and lounge with access to the rear garden, upstairs has three good sized bedrooms, one with built-in wardrobes. There is a house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Patto and terraced garden to rear, off road parking available (not allocated) and side access to the rear garden. No upward chain, available to view now, highly recommnded. EPC-TBC

£122.500

Gornal Robert Street



DUDLEY

Russells Hall Road

ear garden). The first floor landing has an airing cup

A splendid, character-filled, tastefully renovated and extended family home in a popular location. Entrance hall (full length) leads to lounge at the front, and cottage-style kitchen with range style oven to the rear, access to the rear patio and garden, and stairs to the first floor. The open landing on the first floor leads to: three good sized bedrooms, converted loft space and en-suite shower/WC with three velux windows. Lawned area to the rear. Viewing highly recommended, free-hold. EPC-TBC

UPPER GORNAL

£149,950

character features. two bedrooms and walking distance to Sedgley Village, Being tastefully decorated and presented to a high standard. EPC-D

Gospel End Street



sized double bedrooms and a spacious ho

£129,950

Green Lane



TIVIDALE

Aston Road

stairs to first floor and door to: Spacious through loung

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TIPTON

ing SOLAR PANELS, giving exceptionally low cost energy bill (average bills are CS5 p.lmth for gas and electricity!). Having a e parch, guest WC, lounge, dining room, modern kitchen with access to a spacious conservatory to rear, MULT USE room/garage/workshop, on the first floor there is maste bedroom with walk in wardrobe and ENSUITE bathroom/W

£170,000

WOLLASTON



omer ploth of the cul-de-sac, there is a good sized driv ading to the property, with a large single garage to the sid

£260.00

NEW BIRMINGHAM



erted to a utility room. Having a modern and at

£199,995

TIPTON



ounge, dining room and kitchen. Three bed ooms on the first floor and family bathroom

£135.900

£114.995 £134,995

CRADLEY HEATH

Mossvale Close

to the first floor, spacious lou

tted kitchen, two good sized bedrooms (or

Bank Street



A modern, one bedroom apartment with modern electric heating (very efficient) and double glazing. Lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Excellent location

Tipton Harrowby Drive





Recently redecorated one bed 1st floor studio flat in culd-de-sac location, lounge/bedroom, kitchen, WC/Shower. DSS considered with guarantor if over 35. Available now. Unfurnished. EPC E

£345 PCM & Fees

Dudley Attingham Drive





A modern ground floor bed sit/studio with bedroom/lounge, kitchen area and WC/Shower room. Recently decorated wit new flooring. Part furnished. Allocating parking space. Available to view. No Dss. No pets. EPC C

£375 PCM & Fees

Bilston





for commuting, good transport links, shops nearby. Off road parking, unfurnished, no DSS, no pets. EPC- C

£375 PCM & Fees Netherton

St Johns Road

A modern, two bed second floor apart-

ment with lounge, fitted kitchen, two

good-sized bedrooms and bathroom

with shower over the bath. Unfurnished

no pets. No Dss. EPC on order. Avail-

£475 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY **New Rowley Road**



one bed first floor flat (wit A one bed first floor flat (with separate entrance) - new dou-ble glazing, having central heating. Good sized lounge, separate kitchen and double bedroom, bathroom/WC off the bedroom. No pets, DSS considered with guarantor. FPC rating D EPC rating D

£385 PCM & Fees

STOURBRIDGE Murcroft Road



A ground floor, two bed A ground floor, two bed flat, having central heat-ing, double glazing, lounge, kitchen and bathroom with shower. Possible parking, yard to front, unfurnished, available now. DSS considered with guarantor. EPC C £450 PCM & Fees



Modern two bedroom apartment lwithin

£465 PCM & Fees

Dudley DUDI FY



walking distance of to Dudley Town. Open plan lounge with fitted kitchen to include integrated oven and hob. Has bathroom with one double and one single bedroom. The property is unfurnished, No Dss. No pets. EPC - C

Hellier Street



A two bed mid-terrace prop-erty. Two reception rooms, fitted kitchen and down-stairs bathroom, two double bedrooms upstairs. Double glazed and centrally heated. Unfurnished. DSS considered with guarantor. Pets also con-sidered. EPC D

£475 PCM & Fees

OLDBURY



DUDLEY

house. Has lounge, fitted kitchen includes integrated oven. Downstairs wc. Bath-room with shower on 1st floor. Driveway and rear garden. Un furnished. Dss ok with work-ing guarantor. No pets. EPC C

Elizabeth Mews



room with fitted wardrobe Unfurnished. No Dss. No pets EPC -D

£535 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY Leys Crescent



£550 PCM & Fees

Modern two bedroom second floor apartment with open plan lounge kitchen which includes intergrated oven & hob. Has bathroom, allocated parking space and secure entry system. Unfurnished. No Dss. No pets. EPC - D

Dudley Southgate Way

£485 PCM & Fees

£500 PCM & Fees

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Dudley Wallows Wood

- Three bed semi
- •Freshly decorated
- throughout Newly fitted carpets
- ●GCH & D/Glazing
- Newly fitted kitchen with cooker
- Newly fitted bathroom

Wednesbury Old College Drive

- Four double bedrooms
- Lounge & dining room
 Breakfast kitchen
- Two en-suite shower rooms
 Single garage
 Landscaped gardens

Wolverhampton Coalway Road Semi detached Victorian style property •Gas central heating & majority

double glazing

Four bedrooms

Breakfast style kitchen



Wednesbury Darby Road

- Three bedrooms
 Fitted kitchen with over
 Separate dining room
 Bathroom with showe
 rear garden



Tipton Lissimore Drive

- Ffirst floor apartment
 Centrally heated and double glazed
 Two double bedrooms
 Fitted kitchen with appliances
 Bathroom with shower





Willenhall

- One bedroom semi bungalow
 Gas central heating and d/
 glazed
 Open plan lounge through to a
 fitted kitchen
 Luxury downstairs shower
- £495pcn



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K. Stuart Swash

AUCTION - 22ND MARCH 2016



33 FORTON CLOSE, COMPTON, WOLVERHAMPTON

Uniquely designed large modern Detached, Hall, 21ft Lounge, First Floor Dining Room / Lounge (18ft)., balcony, fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, spacious Bathroom, Gas CH., Utility Room / Workshop, Car Port, pleasant Gardens. EPC = $\,$ E51

Guide: £185,000 / £195,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 11th & 12th MARCH @ 12.00 noon





Guide: £28,000 / £33,000



20 GLYME DRIVE, TETTENHALL.

Detached Bungalow in prominent corner position, Double Glazing, CH., Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Car Port, Rear Garden. EPC = D63

Guide: £138,000 / £143,000

NOTE: Planning Permission granted for creation of Four 1 bed Flats. VIEWING:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 11th & 12th MARCH @ 11.45 a.m.



15 LOWBRIDGE WALK, BILSTON

Access via Windsor Street

Impressive Ground Floor Flat, immaculately presented, Hall, magnificent 21ft Living Area with fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, en-suite & large Bathroom, allocated Parking space within gated grounds. EPC = C71

Guide: £93,000 / £98,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 11th & 12th MARCH @ 11.00 a.m.



80 FOWLER STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON

Mid Terraced, Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen Rear Hall, Shower Room & Separate Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Rear Verandah, long Garden. EPC = E53

Guide: £69,000 / £74,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 11th & 12th MARCH @ 9.45 a.m.



95 THE LINDENS, NEWBRIDGE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Well presented Ground Floor Flat. Communal entrance, Hall, Lounge, well proportioned Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, smart white Bathroom. Garage. EPC = D58

Guide: £55,000 / £60,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 11th & 12th MARCH @ 10.45 a.m.



5 RICHMOND MEWS, MERRIDALE ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Close to City Centre - well located Ground Floor Flat within select small block. Hall,

Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Shower Room, Gas CH., Garage, attractive Rear Garden. EPC = D67.

Guide £64,000 / £69,000.

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 11th & 12th MARCH @ 12.45 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.

www.berrimaneaton.co.uk

BERRIMAN EATON









Swallowfield Barn, Church Road, Swindon

Swallowfield Barn stands amidst a picture sque setting of rolling South Staffordshire hillside and is thought to date back to the late 18th century. Main accommodation comprises impressive hallway, lounge/dining room, study, cloakroom, luxury breakfast kitchen, laundry, gym/playroom, games/leisure room, large sun room, master bedroom with en-suite and dressing room, three laundry, gym/playroom, games/leisure room, large sun room, master bedroom with en-suite and dressing room, three laundry, gym/playroom, games/leisure room, large sun room, master bedroom with en-suite and dressing room, three laundry, gym/playroom, games/leisure room, large sun room, master bedroom with en-suite and dressing room, three laundry, gym/playroom, games/leisure room, large sun room, games/leisure room, gamefurther bedrooms with en-suite. Annexe comprises three bedrooms (one en-suite), bathroom, lounge and kitchen. Double garage, courtyard and grounds of approx 3.8 acres. (EPC: E). WOMBOURNE OFFICE.

Guide Price £1,495,000









The Manor House, Seisdon Road, Trysull

 $This enchanting \ Listed\ manor\ house\ is\ situated\ in\ the\ picture sque\ village\ of\ Trysull\ standing\ in\ mature\ grounds\ extending\ to\ prove the picture sque\ village\ of\ Trysull\ standing\ in\ mature\ grounds\ extending\ to\ prove the picture\ prove the picture\ prove\ prove$ just over 3.5 acres.. The grand accommodation includes a beautiful reception hall, guest WC/shower room, formal drawing room, dining room, conservatory, family room, study and a breakfast kitchen with a china pantry and cellars. To the first floor conservatory and cellars are the first floor conservatory and cellars. To the first floor conservatory are the first floor conservatory and cellars are the first floor conservatory.are five bedrooms, a well-appointed bathroom and two further en-suites. There are glorious southerly facing mature gardens and paddock with an extensive driveway BRIDGNORTH OFFICE

OPEN VIEWING SATURDAY 12th MARCH 11AM - 1PM

Guide Price £875,000



The Rookery, Stourbridge Road, Wombourne A magnificent residence with immense presence standing in a fine area with extensive and flexible accommodation. The elegant property has a superhain house with three reception rooms, orangery, kitchen (dining room, four bedrooms, study, bathroom and shower room together with an adjoining two storey annex with reception room, garden room, kitchenette, shower room storey annex with reception room, garden room, kitchenette, snower room and two bedrooms. Detached triple garage block, gated drive and superb grounds. Total area approx. 0.5 acres. (EPC: D). TETTENHALL OFFICE **Guide Price £1,150,000**



Hawkswood Barn, Coton Hawkswood Barn stands in a semi-rural setting with views set within this small development having private parking and a double attached cango if The extensive living accommodation comprises, open pland inling hall, sitting room, a mily room, breakfast kitchen, separate utility, quest cloakroom and a ground floor bedroom/study with shower room. Inst floor master bedroom with dressing room and ensuite, three further bedrooms and bathroom. (EPC:C) BRIDGNORTH OFFICE

Guide Price £625,000



Orton Lodge, Snuwen Lane,

Stunninglyappointedextendeddetachedbungalowwithfarreachingviewsover
South Staffordshire countryside with the benefit (subject to permissions) for
extending to 1st floor level. The property has been completely refurbished with
new kitchen and bathrooms. There is alight and airy lounge with a conservatory
to the side open plan kitchen with integrated Bosch appliances, dining and
seating area, Utility. S bedrooms and two bathrooms. Double garage, additional
single garage and garden to the rear and side. WOMBOURNE OFFICE

Guide Price £595,000 Orton Lodge, Showell Lane, Lower Penn



The School House, Smestow Gate, Swindon purchase a character home with adjoining land and stables in such a convenient location. Entrance hall, guest cloak room, fitted break fast kitchen,large living room, garden room, three first floor bedrooms and house large living room, garden room, .
bathroom. (EPC:G) WOMBOURNE OFFICE

Guide Price £595,000



Stone Croft, Astley Abbotts, Bridgnorth Just two miles from Bridgnorth, Stone Croft is a detached residence standing within grounds of just over an acre with farmland views to all aspects, Internal accommodation comprises four reception rooms, breakfast kitchen, utility area, guest cloakroom and a double bedroom with en-suite shower room. To the first floor area further two double bedrooms both withen -suite facilities. Surrounding gardens, orchard and two double garages. (EPCE) BRIDGNORTH OFFICE OPEN VIEWING SATURDAY 12th MARCH 1:30PM -2:30PM Offers Around £499,000



5 Oak Drive, Seisdon

garden and flexible living accommodation. Entrance hall, guest cloakroom, L-shaped living/dining room, sitting room, breakfast kitchen and utility. To the first floor there are five bedrooms and three bathrooms. Large driveway to the front with access to the garage and large lawned garden to the rear enjoying a southerly aspect. (EPC: D) BRIDGNORTH OFFICE

Guide Price £495,000



1 Orchard Close, Claverley

An immaculate detached family home situated in a private and secluded location within easy walking distance to the centre of Claverley, Reception hall, guest cloakroom, full length living room, dining room and a fitted breakfast kitchen. To the first floor there are four bedrooms and two bah/ shower rooms. Driveway to the front with triple garaging and landscaped garden to the rear. (EPC:F) BRIDGNORTH OFFICE

Guide Price £425,000



7 Danford Heath, Claverley

accommodation in the pictures que village of Claverley. Entrance hall, lounge accommodatorim treplecties que vinage or case relevant a transcensing of dining room, study/store, kitchen, utility, guest cloakroom, three bedrooms, dressing room and house bathroom. Driveway and large rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. (EPC:F) BRIDGNORTH OFFICE

Guide Price £225,000

2010/10 CITROEN C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDi 8V VTR + 5 door, Blue, 49,785 miles £30 a year Road Tax £5,295 **2007/57 SEAT ALTEA XL 1.9 TDI STYLANCE**5 door, Grey, 68,650 miles

£3,995 2007/57 NISSAN NOTE

£3,695

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3 door, Black, 34,307 miles
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2007/56 PEUGEOT 207

1.4 16V SPORT 3 door, Blue, 66,444 miles

£2.295

2008/08 FIAT PANDA 1.3 MULTIJET 16V DYNAMIC 5DR FSH, £30 A Year Road Tax, 12 months MOT, 72,554 miles

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DRIVETIME



Ford takes honours at awards

Ford models have won UK Car of the Year Awards for the third year in succession. The all-new right-hand drive Ford Mustang took Coupé of the Year, winning over the judges with its performance, value for money and fun factor.

UK Car of the Year honours are decided by a panel of 27 British motoring journalists, including contributors to national newspapers, consumer and industry magazines, websites and TV.

Tim Pollard, of CAR magazine, praised Ford Mustang's "exceptional value, amazing bangs for your buck and sheer drama of the thing". John Challen, UK Car of the Year Awards director, highlighted Ford Mustang for its "outstanding performance and value for money. Just the name is enough to stir even the most conservative petrol-

Ford Mustang owners can choose between 317PS of EcoBoost power or 416PS of V8 muscle, with prices starting from £30,495. The style and practicality of the latest

Ford S-MAX helped secure Multi-Purpose Vehicle of the Year Award for the acclaimed Ford model. "The original S-MAX tore up the people-carrier rulebook, and now its replacement moves the game on again. Seven-seat practi-cality meets renowned Ford dynamics - it's a combination that continues to defy the odds," said John Challen.
Top Gear magazine's Tom Ford

reckons: "The S-MAX is an MPV that doesn't drive like one. And yet it takes seven people with ease. Plus it comes loaded with all the best convenience options. As an all-rounder for families, it's hard to beat.

Ford models have featured in the UK Car of the Year Awards since they were launched in 2014. Ford S-MAX and Ford Mustang's 2016 success follow previous accolades for the Ford Fiesta ST and Ford Mondeo.

Commenting on the wins, Ford of Britain chairman and managing direc-tor Andy Barratt, said: "We are bringing a desired taste of the US to the UK with Ford Mustang and S-MAX blends cutting-edge design with seven-seat accommodation. We're proud that the judges have recognised the strengths of both cars in this year's UK Car of the Year Awards."

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Ibiza can prove to be a bit of a bargain

By Ian Donaldson

CLOSE your eyes and you could be driving a Volkswagen or an Audi ... or a Skoda, come to that.

There's the same slick precision about the way everything works; the result of sinking billions of euros in development costs in budgets decided long before the VW Group's recent woes raised their expensive heads.

Now open your eyes (best do it soon if the car is moving) and you'll discover the badge reads SEAT, from the Spanish outpost of the world's biggest - or second biggest - car

That means it's supposed to slip into a VW Group portfolio where Audi equals posh, Volkswagen is solidly middle class, Skoda is all about value (not cheap prices any more)

and SEAT has a touch of Latin zing.

Take the car tested here. It's the latest and mildly modified version of the popular Ibiza, uniquely offered in cars of this size as a three-door hatch (the SC), a more practical five- door or the ST, for Sports Tourer, or what you and I call

Prices start at precisely £10,000 and adding a couple of doors costs £450 but the boot space stays the same. Opt for the estate and it's a slightly longer car with a much bigger load area and a price hike of £1,150 over the three-door

The refreshed range looks much the same as before, with only LED driving lights on dearer models and a new choice of colours and alloy wheels to give the game away. Inside, there's a new steering wheel and new look dials and trim.

Looker

So, not much to talk about there, but the Ibiza always was a bit of a looker in a class where stodgy rules more strongly

Rather more happens in the bits that matter most, from new steering to refreshed range of eight engines, starting with a 75 horsepower three-cylinder petrol unit and topping out with 192 when the new 146mph Cupra version arrives.

No price for that yet, but the 1.2 litre CONNECT model on test costs £14,170 as a three-door SC. Diesels (with only a single 1.4 litre on offer in a class that is wildly tilted to-wards petrol) cost from £16,885 and come with a company tax efficient 95g/km rating and theoretical 78.5mpg average consumption.

SEAT is pushing the connectivity of this latest Ibiza, mean-

ing that if you choose the right model, or add an upgrade, you can turn your car into a version of your smartphone. Indeed, go for a CONNECT trim level and there's a Samsung Galaxy A3 mobile phone as part of the package. The car will talk to Android or Apple operating systems,

letting you talk to the world with safety and ease, or listen to your favourite music. It will, with a new SEAT CONNECT App, let you monitor your heartbeat, but best not check moments after that idiot pulled out in front of you without

looking.
The CONNECT version of this Ibiza revamp looks like the sweet spot of the range and comes pretty well loaded with kit. As well as the cleverness outlined above there is satellite navigation, DAB radio and a six speaker sound system with Bluetooth

A pair of 1.0 litre petrol engines are available, one with a turbo and more power. Next up is the four-cylinder 1.2 litre of the car you see here, with more than useful performance on a mix of country roads, where the 43mpg shown at journey's end seemed about par for the course.

And with every inch covered this latest, mildly tweaked

Ibiza displayed the crispness in response from steering, of the VW Group family.

Which makes it a bit of a bargain if you choose carefully.

TESTED

SEAT Ibiza SC CONNECT 1.2 TSI 90PS

Drivetrain: 1.2 litre 89bhp petrol engine, 5-speed

Performance: Top speed 114mph, 0-62mph 10.7

Economy: Euro average 56.7mpg CO2 116g/km

Safety: EuroNCAP 5 stars Insurance: 13

Warranty: Three years or 60,000 miles







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Fuel consumption in MPG (I/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 25.2 (11.2) - 78.5 (3.6), Extra Urban 38.7 (7.3) - 80.7 (3.5), Combined 32.1 (8.8) - 76.3 (3.7), C0₂ Emissions 231 - 84 g/km. Fuel consumption; figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.

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- rear parking camera

Diesel version also available - ask for details



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- front fog lights
- Honda CONNECT 7 touchscreen display with AM/ FM/DAB tuner, internet radio. Aha® app integration, internet
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Refreshed and new model in i20 range

By Matt Joy

Hyundai's popular i20 hatchback has been refreshed for 2016 with a downsized petrol engine and a new model in the range.

Forget those fancy European brands you think you know; when it comes to making a solid private purchase, the Hyundai i20 is about as sensible as you can be - and that's a good thing. Smart, wellequipped, good value and offering a slick driving experience, it's hard to fault, but that hasn't stopped Hyundai giving the i20 an update for 2016.

Most importantly, it's now available with a brand-new three-cylinder turbocharged petrol engine, in two power outputs with impressive claims for fuel consumption and performance. Equipment upgrades have been made across the range while there's a whole new model too; the i20 Active is designed to be a compact crossover, with a 20mm increase in ride height, unique bumpers, roof rails and a rear spoiler.

The standard i20 is a neat and inoffensive piece of design. but in the new Active form, there's a little bit more going on. The extra detail in the front bumper gives the front end some additional presence, as does the increased ride height. It's not as distinct from its conventional sibling as some rival offerings, but it will snare some buyers that find the regular five-door too conventional.

Hvundai's image has also come a remarkable way in a matter of years. Its badge carries as much weight as many European rivals and in cars like the i20 and Santa Fe, it is producing cars with distinction.

Comfortable

There's no sheet metal changes for 2016, so the i20 keeps its exterior and interior dimensions. Those seated up reorby its exterior and interior dimensions. Those seated up front should find it easy to get comfortable. Although the seats aren't huge, they offer useful support and the low-set dashboard means the view out is good. In the rear, it's a little tighter for space with headroom at a premium for those near six feet tall, but legroom is good for the class as is the

boot space.

While the Active model has suspension raised by 20mm, its effect on the i20's behaviour is minimal. The ride quality is good on the vast majority of surfaces, with only particularly poor surfaces creating significant intrusion into the cabin. On the flip side, the handling is safe and secure if unremarkable, but the steering is light and accurate plus the raised ride height doesn't make the i20 Active suddenly heel over

What really marks out the 2016 i20 however is that new powerplant. Three-cylinder turbo engines used to be the preserve of Japanese Kei cars but this Hyundai offering is a gem. The on-paper performance might seem modest, but this belies how perky it feels. It will rev quite happily without significant engine noise, but better still is the generous torque which allows you to be lazy with the gearshifts and still make good progress. Despite that, the official figures are impressive with 58.9mpg combined and 110g/km of CO2, while the 120PS version feels no quicker on the road.

Go for the i20 Active model and you get 17-inch alloy wheels, LED daytime running lights, DAB radio and rear parking sensors for your £15,225, and this comes with the 100PS 1.0-litre turbo engine only. The regular i20 starts at £10,995 for the S model and even this comes with electrically adjusted and heated door mirrors, height adjustable driv-er's seat, reach and rake adjustable steering wheel and an MP3-compatible stereo with USB and auxiliary inputs. The top-spec Premium Nav SE with the top diesel engine is only £17,700, so the i20 is impressive value across the range. If the i20 Active is big enough to suit your lifestyle then it

makes an exceptionally strong case as a private purchase It's excellent value for money whatever specification you choose, while the Active model not only combines the best engine choice but also adds in a little more ruggedness. It's an ideal first car while older folk will find the raised driving position a useful boon too. There are more sparkling drives in the class but for many drivers this is of lesser importance than value and equipment.

This car summed up in a single word: Surprising If this car was a: movie, you'd be impressed beyond you expectations, but also tempted to keep it a secret

Hyundai i20 Active 1.0 100PS, £15,225

Engine: 1.0-litre petrol unit producing 99bhp and 126lb/ft of torque

Transmission: Five-speed manual gearbox driving the front wheels

Performance: Top speed 109mph, 0-62mph in

Economy: 58.9mpg combined Emissions: 110g/km of CO2

Latest XC90 ticks all the boxes for its £60,000 tag

By John Griffiths

There are any number of reasons for choosing a car (budget nothwithstanding), from performance to luxury features and from space and practicality to economy.

So, if you have £60,000 to spend – and it seems

a surprising number of people have - then Volvo's latest XC90 seems to tick all the boxes.

It's a spacious, luxuriously equipped seven seater and a

technical tour de force, a showcase of things to come from Volvo which achieved record sales in 2015, and if the XC90 is a taste of the future then rival premium brands need to look to their laurels as Volvo uses the platform and the technology in other sectors of the executive express market.

The previously-launched twin turbo diesel and super-charged and turbo'd petrol versions of the XC90 have won Volvo sales and industry accolades: the new flagship is a petrol-electric hybrid which uses its two forms of propulsion not only to be the range's performance flagship (0 to 62mph in 5.7 seconds) but also to be economy king, saving thousands of pounds in tax, in particular for company car users.

Volvo calls it a twin-engined car but it is almost a triple engine set-up: the starting point is a two litre, four cylinder petrol engine but it's supercharged to boost low level response and turbocharged to add power and torque further up the rev range. Then there's a powerful electric motor driving the

rear wheels and supplementing performance.

So, in total, you have up to 407bhp and a whopping 640Nm of torque on tap when the two are working together. Hardly surprising this big car is so quick and responsive.

Official

The XC90 can, in theory, run for up to 27 miles on electric power alone, or it can be used in hybrid mode to assist the petrol engine's performance. It has an official 134.5mpg fuel

petrol engine's performance. It has an omicial 134-singg ruel economy and ultra low 49g/km of CO2 emissions.

What you actually achieve will depend on driving style and journey type. You could accomplish an average commuting trip without using any petrol at all, and therefore with zero emissions. Once the battery is flat and you're running on petrol only, around 30mpg is likely (although that is by no means outrageous for a big, seven-seat SUV).

You can choose between several modes, although the standard 'hybrid' switch position does perfectly well for most circumstances. In two of the options you get the full benefit of both propulsion systems – power, as it suggests, is for maximum performance while the All Wheel Drive position distributes the same power in a different way for maximum traction when the going gets slippery.

As with all hybrids, you do get some power back through a regenerative braking system as you're travelling. But Volvo has taken this a step further with a new position on the eight-speed automatic transmission; in B for Brake the power regeneration is optimised, while also adding extra braking effect through the electric motor if, for example, you're on a steep downhill stretch or towing a trailer.

While fuel efficiency is one thing, the area where hybrids

come into their own is in wallet efficiency. For a start, you get £2,500 from the government just for buying one. Then there is lower road tax but the big winner is in terms of company car tax: for example in 2016/17 an XC90 hybrid driver will pay £1.691 while the driver of a similar, conventionally powered SUV will be stumping up more than £7,000.

The XC90's interior befits the car's premium status and

price tag, and unusually that applies no matter where you sit inside it - rear or front. There are, of course, all the airbags and electronic safety aids you'd expect, but there are some new ones. Two are more world firsts for Volvo – 'run off road protection' and auto brake at junctions. The City Safe feature includes pedestrian and cyclist detection capability with fully automatic braking if necessary.

The luxurious, leather and chrome clad interior is matched by the smooth power delivery thanks to the matching of the two propulsion systems and smooth eight-speed transmission. Ride quality is good and noise levels low.

The centre console is dominated by a colour touch screen

control system, with connectivity. The XC90 comes in three trim levels and all are seven-seaters, with leather upholstery, the full range of safety systems, active LED headlights (which follow steering cues), a power-operated, hands-free tailgate, and two-zone climate control.

This flagship model's price is £64,250 (before the £2,500 grant) which is £14,000 more than the conventional diesel and £10,000 more than the petrol-only. But, to put that in context, you have to factor in the hybrid's tax-saving for company car drivers and that it has a significantly lower

price tag than some of its more conventional competitors.
The standard diesel and petrol XC90s have, deservedly, won widespread acclaim but the hybrid is undoubtedly a major step forward – an example of how automotive technology is achieving greater efficiency without loss of driveability









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Updates for Volvo cars set for 2017 model year

By James Parker

Volvo Cars today announces a wide range of updates for model year 2017, including the introduction of its latest semi-autonomous drive technology, Pilot Assist II, as standard on the XC90 in the UK.

The introduction of Pilot Assist II on the XC90 is made possible thanks to the modular approach to car building enabled by Volvo's new SPA architecture. Introduced first in the new S90 premium saloon, Pilot Assist II supports drivers up to speeds of 80 mph in

well-marked highway conditions.

The XC90 will also be available with PowerPulse on the D5 powertrain. PowerPulse technology delivers significant improvements in take-off performance thanks to Volvo's ingenious use of compressed air to deliver an instantaneous

response by spooling up the turbo.

Volvo has also expanded its safety technology to cover one of the most common causes of single-vehicle accidents by adding run-off road mitigation, which uses auto-steer to help keep you on the road.

Volvo's standard collision-avoidance system, city safety also receives an update with large animal detection added on 90 Series cars

Volvo's in-car connectivity and driver interface system Sensus, will receive several new native apps across the range for 2016, including Spotify and Park and Pay. Spotify the highly popular music streaming service, provides constant access to an immense online library of your favourite music and utilises the familiar interface of Spotify's smartphone applications in the car. Park and Pay provides Volvo owners with the ultimate convenience of finding and paying for parking when desired (the payment function is not yet offered in the UK).

Connected Service Booking, which allows workshop booking and reminders from the Sensus interface, will be added, along with improved Internet Maps, TuneIn, Local Search and Yelp applications. Record & Send, a new voice-recording app, will also be added, enabling drivers to make a voice note that they can send to themselves as reminders

The 60 Series cars will receive significant updates for 2016. Volvo's award-winning four-cylinder T5 petrol engine delivering 245 hp and 350 Nm of torque mated to an 8-speed automatic transmission will become available in the XC60.

Two new wheels will be offered – a new 18" wheel for the S60/V60 and XC60, and a brand-new 20" wheel for the XC60. These will be complemented by a new generation of 18", 19" and 20" wheels for R-Design trim levels.

Smartphone

The 60 Series cars will also be offered with three new exterior colours. Luminous Sand will be available on all 60 Series cars, while Mussel Blue will come on the XC60, S60, V60 and V60 Cross Country. Bursting Blue will be available for S60, V60 and XC60 R-Design variants. Passion Red is also being added for the V60 Cross Country model.

The Volvo On Call smartphone app, which allows remote

access and control over a wide range of in-car features, re-ceives a substantial update. Volvo On Call already delivers wearable connectivity (Apple Watch/Android Wear), and the new Microsoft Band 2 connectivity now enables voice control for certain features when using Windows 10-based

smartphones.
Other updates to Volvo On Call include a calendar integration function that connects your personal calendar to the mobile app, allowing it to send calendar appointment destinations directly to your navigation on request. For 2016 Volvo On Call will broaden its scope and provide support for up to 10 Volvo vehicles, giving access to all the usual functions across a fleet of cars.

Volvo will also introduce Flic button compatibility with Volvo will also introduce Flic button compatibility with Volvo On Call. Flic allows you to program a single physical 'smart button' to perform several tasks, such as lock your car or to start/stop pre-heating (where available), and can be used as a shortcut to Volvo On Call services.

Volvo now also offers support for Windows 10 with a new version of the Volvo On Call application that can be used on regular PCs and tablets to interact with your car.

Volvo's continuing leadership in interior air quality is high-lighted from 2016 with the inclusion of the CleanZone logo on the instrument panel air vents in the 60 Series cars and a

logo in the centre display of the 90 Series cars.

Volvo's award-winning CleanZone technology ensures that outside air is effectively filtered before entering the cabin, removing harmful pollutants that are increasingly common in large urban areas. CleanZone technology reflects Volvo's ongoing work to improve the in-car experience, covering incoming air, interior emissions and odours, interior surfaces and contact allergies.

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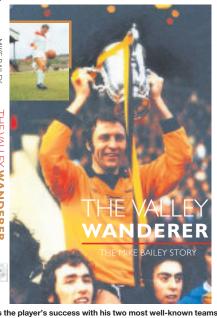
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Signing on under the eye of chairman John Ireland

The Valley Wanderer, the Mike Bailey Story, is available to buy at £14.99 and charts the player's success with his two most well-known teams, Wolves and Charlton

Wolves boss Ronnie Allen shows Bailey the way

Bailey and his wife Barbara with Clive Corbett at the book launch

50-year anniversary of golden great's signing

FIFTY years ago, Wolves acquired the services of the man who I believe to be the club's greatest captain I have seen in action.

I must admit that I am biased on two counts. I must admit that I am biased on two counts. Firstly, I only saw my first Wolves match in 1965; secondly I collaborated with Mike Bailey in the writing of his story, 'The Valley Wander-er'. Here is how a true Wolves great started his

er . Here is now a true wolves great started his decade at Molineux.

Somewhat unexpectedly, in late February 1966, Charlton boss Bob Stokoe called Bailey into his office, told him of Wolves' interest and asked if he would like to go to Molineux and talk with them.

Experience

His first experience of playing at Molineux had come the previous November when he featured in the Charlton team that drew 2-2. He already knew Ernie Hunt, who had joined Wolves a few months earlier, from sharing a room with him on England under-23

Before the match, Bailey knocked on the Molineux Before the match, Balley knocked on the Monneux dressing room door to say hello to him. Hunt called him in and asked him to sit down, saying, "I like it here, you would too."

Bailey was also aware that Wolves boss Ronnie Allen, who he knew from his time at Crystal Palace,

was interested in him.

was interested in him.

Bailey himself recalled: "Ronnie Allen, who was manager at the time, chipped in by saying, 'How would you like to play with these lads?' My reply was 'great' but I thought Allen was just pulling my leg and I forgot about it."

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Clive Corbett

The atmosphere was friendly but electric and he knew he wanted to play in games like this every week

Former Chronicle editor and keen Wolves fan Steve Gordos remembers that November match.
"My first proper glimpse of this all-action man was when he figured in a Charlton side playing against a newly-relegated Wolves in a Second Division clash at Molineux which ended 2-2," he said.
"Wolves led at half-time after Hughie McIlmoyle broke the deadlock, but Bailey was very much in evidence when he burst through to equalise

broke the deadlock, but Bailey was very much in evidence when he burst through to equalise.

"Ron Saunders – yes that Ron Saunders – missed a penalty but then put the Londoners ahead before Wolves levelled within two minutes thanks to a neat header from Ernie Hunt."

What really impressed Bailey was the Molineux crowd. He recalls how they really got behind the team. The atmosphere was friendly but electric and he knew he wanted to play in games like this every week.

It was at the end of February 1966 when Wolves and Charlton agreed terms for Bailey's transfer.

Wolves were playing Derby at the Baseball Ground and while the spoils were being shared, Bailey was helping Charlton to a 2-1 win at Leyton Orient – it proved to be his last game for the Addicks.

Two days later, Monday February 28, the England international – Bailey won two caps against the US and Wales – was at Molineux and liked what he saw, agreeing to join Wolves for a fee of £40,000. A day earlier he had celebrated his 24th birthday and would prove to be an inspirational figure at Molineux.

Having had a look around and spoken with chairman John Ireland and boss Allen, Bailey was impressed, but really wanted some time to discuss

pressed, but really wanted some time to discuss things with his wife Barbara.

"She was working in London, had never been to the Midlands and would be away from her family, so it was a big decision for her as well," Bailey recalls.

Formalities

"The deal was completed in the shortest possible time for I left London at 12 o'clock and was back at six having spent no more than half an hour completing the formalities at Molineux.
"I was sad to leave Charlton and I am always made very welcome at The Valley."

very welcome at The Valley."
Within a period of a little over 12 months Bailey had succeeded the great Ron Flowers as captain and led Wolves back to Division One. In May 1967 he was named Evening Mail West Midlands Footballer of the

Year.

As 'The Valley Wanderer' charts, Bailey was the talismanic leader who guided Wolves to their best top flight finish to date, a first major trophy in 14 years and numerous European adventures.

For a copy of the book email Clive Corbett at gpbooks@hotmail.co.uk





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Celebrating 50 years since a golden great joined Wolves

See Page 43

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Sales boost just the ticket for Heathens

CRADLEY Heathens fans have broken the club record for season ticket sales in the modern era.

the modern era.

Heathens, who are preparing for their seventh season since the club returned to league racing, have returned to Wolvehrampton's Monmore Green for home meetings. They open on Easter Monday, March 28, against Belle Vue with a rewarded side.

with a revamped side.

Fans can meet returning hero Ashley
Morris this Saturday when he launches
the new official team clothing at the club
shop in Market Square from noon-2pm.

Boss Will Pottinger said: "On behalf of the riders and myself I want to thank all the fans who have backed us in numbers before the season has even started.

"It's an amazing effort, more than 250 fans have bought season tickets and we have now gone through the club record for the modern era since we reformed in 2010.

2010.
"It also give the owners the incentive to keep going despite a lack of progress with a new stadium, for them to know the support is still there – with many more returning after not going to Perry Barr last year – is a real boost.
"There is also an amazing amount of sponsorship and advertising, that will be evident when we reveal the new race jacket at Cradley Heath Liberal Club on March 21."
Heathens have been backed by ISC

Heathens have been backed by ISC Heathens have been backed by ISC Teamwear who have sponsored the team clothing and there will be stock available for fans to purchase on Saturday. ISC have added Cradley as their first Speedway club and are partners to Rugby League giants Warrington Wolves, Leeds Rhinos and Hull FC.

Fans attending the launch on Saturday can also snap up their tickets for the season launch night on March 21 for £5 with all profits going to the riders.

Eggington's titles are ripped away by challenger Skeete

STOURBRIDGE'S Sam Eggington saw his British and Commonwealth belts ripped away by Bradley Skeete at the Gent-

ped away by Bradley Skeete at the Genting Arena, Birmingham on Saturday, Kal Yafai wiped out Dixon Flores in a round to claim the WBA Inter-Continental super flyweight title, while Marcus Ffrench halted Michael Rooney in 55 seconds. Brummie Karl Wiggins lost the Midlands welterweight belt after he was knocked down for a second time in the fifth by Derby's Ryan Fields.

Gamal Yafai took the Commonwealth

Gamal Yafai took the Commonwealth super bantamweight strap from Bobby Jenkinson after the champion's corner threw in the towel in the seventh.

Cello Renda beat Mike Byles in a sixround super middleweight bout. Jordan Cooke stopped Lee Connelly with 26 seconds left of their Lightweight four-rounder.

Tipton's unbeaten Ricky Summers outpointed gatekeeper Carl Wild for the eight-round British Classic Challenge light heavyweight strap on Friday. Priory Park stablemates Josh Miller and Les Byfield had victories over Mark

Till and Qasim Husaain respectively.

Glassboys put Gladiators to the sword

Stourbridge 4 Matlock Town 1 THE Glasssboys comprehensively beat Matlock Town 4-1 at Amblecote to move into the play-off positions in the Evo Stik Northern Premier.

positions in the Evo Suk Northern Fremier.

It was a dominant performance from Gary
Hackett's men, who looked the better team from
the start against the Gladiators.

Chris Lait got the scoring under way on 15
minutes when he twisted and turned on the edge

of the box before driving the ball home. It was 2-0 on 24 minutes when Kristian Green bagged his second goal of the season, getting on the end of a low Justin Richards cross to turn it in

Stourbridge 15 Sedglev Park 7

A MORE confident Stour performance saw their defences

Stour's handling and set-piece were considerably improved, paying dividends before the soft surface cut up.

surface cut up.

Playing into a stiff breeze, the opening exchanges saw Stour under pressure after a break by Sedg scrum half Callum McShane who was hauled down just short by the covering Sam Wilkes. They cleared their lines but had to scramble again when winger Sam Lowthian worked clear, centres Joe Heatley and James Otutaha putting in last ditch tackles to deny the visitors.

Heatley hit an inside pass at full speed to wrongfoot Sedge's defensive line. Clean through at halfway he left the fullback for dead and outstripped the covering wingers, scoring a spectac-

stripped the covering wingers, scoring a spectac-

Sedg got little change out of the Stour defence until a high tackle gave centre Matt Riley a shot a goal that he pulled wide. Stour kicked a penalty to touch from which they launched short drives

to touen from which they launched short drives that produced a try under the posts for loosehead prop Stef Thorpe. Chris Scott converted. The first scrum of the second half produced a deliberate knock on by McShane that was penalised, giving Scott the most straightforward of kicks at goal. A no-arms tackle shortly after gave Scott another shot from further out and it fell short.

snort.

Sedg ran tap penalties and managed to fashion an overlap but were denied when flanker Joe
Carpenter smothered. Stour coughed up a soft
lineout turnover and Sedg replacement Harri
Greville barged over from short range, Riley
converting.

Sedg continued to attack from deep, leaving themselves vulnerable to counterattack which

themselves vulnerable to counterattack which came when a loose ball was picked off by Billy Harding who hared upfield only to be brought down short. A score looked likely as the ball was worked wide but the move was killed by an off-side intervention by Sedg no 8 Matt Lamprey, who finished his game in the sinbin. Stour kicked for the corpor and would the clock down. Heat

for the corner and wound the clock down, Heat-

for the corner and wound the clock down, Heat-ley blotting his copybook by knocking-on with the line at his mercy. Sedg's final attack foundered near halfway as Stour secured the win. Stour next take on Tynedale at Newcastle Fal-cons' Kingston Park on March 19.

given a workout.

solo effort.

converting.

off the post. Matt Gould in the Stourbridge goal made a good save from Liam Gaughan in the 34th minute as Matlock responded.

But at the other end, Karl Hawley saw a shot tipped over and from the resulting corner, Joe Hull hit the inside of the post with a header, the ball bouncing out.

Four minutes after the break Stourbridge effectively wrapped the game up when Matt Dodd

STOUR DEFENCE

TANDS F

was tripped in the area and got up to score the penalty himself.

Pinpoint

But the best goal was saved for last on 73 minutes when Richards sent the ball diagonally to Dodd on the edge of the area and his pinpoint cross was finished off by Leon Broadhurst.

The visitors scrambled a late goal through Liam Needham.

Etath Needmann.

Stourbridge: Gould, Green (Smikle 70), Scarr, Geddes, Hull, Pierpoint, Dodd, Broadhurst, Hawley (Singh 77), Richards, Lait (Vincent 70). Subs not used: Billingham, Whittall.

Extras are Enville A's top scorer

Pedmore (111-1) beat Enville 'A' (78 all

out) by 37 runs
PEDMORE openers Dan Jones and
Matt Porter started well, Jones taking
14 off Tom Bingham's first over before
he then retired in the third over, replaced by John Hurdman.

He continued the scoring with cap-tain Porter until he also retired on 25 James Burgoyne was Enville's only success when run-out chasing the runs on 103. Hurdman became the third to retire

cess when run-out chasing the runs on 103. Hurdman became the third to retire with an over to go. Enville lost Matt Branch for five in the opening over. Young Callum White, given the opportunity to open the bowling, lacked some direction but bowled well containing the Enville batsman. Wayne Holt making his debut also produced a decent spell after a nervous start returning 1-15 off three overs. The Enville batsman fell away with only George Roberts showing resistance and taking 15 off one James Burgoyne over. Extras was top scorer with 25.

Swindon (110 all out) beat Enville 'B' (93 all out) by 17 runs
SWINDON elected to bat but their openers struggled to put runs on the board against some decent bowling, then lost opener Dan Wale run out for 11.

Lee Passmore added impetus and scoring became easier. Swindon lost their

Lee Passmore added impetus and scoring became easier. Swindon lost their second wicket at 62, then their remaining batsman, seemingly with another appointment to attend, played some nice shots but the running was poor, the five remaining batsman all run out.

Enville 'B' in reply opened with regulars Jono Howells (12) and Nick Insley who looked confident of chasing down the score. The introduction of Larry Langston for Swindon put the brakes on the innings in his 2.3 overs, taking 2-5.

Insley was run out for 29 and the innings closed 93 all out in the last over.

Clarke off bench to hit goal on debut

Halesowen Town 2 likeston FC 0 SUBSTITUTE Tyree Clarke fired Halesowen to their first home win since November just seconds after arriving on the pitch on his home debut.

the pitch on his home debut.
Chances were few and far between
before Halesowen finally broke through
in the 69th minute when Ashley Parsons-Smith crossed from the right and
Kaiman Anderson headed on for Clarke to control and smash home with his first touch of the game.

Melvin soon doubled Halesowen's lead

by converting a penalty six minutes later after Jay Denny was brought down by Ilkeston substitute Luis Rose.

distances.

distances.

The weekend started with a group travelling to Wales to take part in the Rhayader 20, a classic marathon prep race around the Elan Valley Reser-

voirs. Simon Hughes was first voirs. Simon Hughes was hrist back for the club in 2.21.11 to take 25th place, Darran Bishop chased him home in 41st place in 2.24.12, Mark Homer finished in 72nd place in 2.35.02 to take

place. Going a little further over the 26.2 mile marathon dis-tance in North Wales was the husband and wife team of Ali-son and Keith Whitehouse, who took part in the Wrexham Marathon. Alison recording a time of 4.33.40 to finish in 119th place and Keith finishing in 5.14.56 to take 144th out of 151 com-



The Chronicle, a Midland News sociation Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford Thursday, March 10, 2016



ATHLETES from Dudley Kingswinford Running club were spoilt for choice at the weekend with plenty of races to choose from over varying terrain and

fourth in his age group, Graham Wildgoose was 99th in 2.39.25.

In Milton Keynes for another 20 miler, Andy Morrison finishing in 3.01.51 to take 450th

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